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Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia is a regional partnership among 11 social development networks and organizations in 10 Asian nations that envisions Asian rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance. Its mission is to be an effective promoter and catalyst of partnership relations, a facilitator of human resource development processes in rural areas and a mobilizer of expertise and opportunities for the strengthening of solidarity and kinship among Asian rural communities. The regional policy advocacy work of the Partnership has always been anchored in its commitment to ensuring that the voices of its partner organizations are clearly heard in the advocacy arena. The Partnership organized the farmers' exchange visits that eventually led to the formation of the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development. The Partnership is affiliated with the Economic and Social Council, the South East Asian Committee for Advocacy, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Rural Development Working Group, the World Rural Forum Association and Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Organized the conference "Civil society-Government dialogue: possibilities of working together for fairer agricultural trade", held in Thailand in 2005; (b) a strategy meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and an Asian consultation meeting on the World Social Forum, held in Sri Lanka in 2005; (c) organized, together with the Asia Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty and the International South Group Network, a forum on WTO, food sovereignty and alternatives to globalization held in 2005; (d) organized, together with the Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, a regional conference on civil society engagement with ASEAN, held in 2005; (e) participated in an ASEAN-civil society conference, held in Kuala Lumpur in 2005; (f) participated in the Fourth ASEAN People's Assembly, held in 2005 in Manila; (g) participated in a regional consultation on the theme "Towards a farmers' forum at IFAD's Governing Council", organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and held in 2005 in the Philippines; (h) participated in the 2006 World Congress of Rural Women; (i) participated in training courses on marketing sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Vredeseilanden; (j) participated in FAO Asia-Pacific governors' meeting held in 2006; (k) participated in the consultation on the World Development Report 2008; (l) participated in the First IFAD Global Farmers' Forum, held in Rome in 2006; (m) participated in an Asia-Pacific regional implementation meeting held in Jakarta in 2007 in preparation for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development; (n) took part in the sixteenth session of the Commission, held in 2008.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: the Partnership's member networks are actively engaged in various projects aimed at reducing poverty and hunger in rural communities across South-East Asia. In 2005, the Indonesian affiliate conducted a training course on sustainable agriculture, using the field-school model. In 2006, it assisted farmer partners in developing experimental plots aimed at the conservation of various local paddy, vegetable and fruit species and in setting up a sustainable agriculture field laboratory. The Vietnamese affiliate supported seminars on possible alternatives in promoting poverty alleviation and hunger eradication, especially for indigenous communities. The Philippine affiliate launched Project Caraga, which was implemented in 12 villages and involved some 1,500 households belonging to the indigenous, Christian and Muslim communities.

Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women: in 2005, the Indonesian affiliate launched a pilot project, "Making agriculture work for the poor", aimed at the development of rural enterprises that maximize local inputs and the involvement of rural women. In 2006, the Malaysian affiliate launched an income-generating programme for the advancement of women. Through the programme, women are taught how to make a variety of products that will enable them to start up small-scale enterprises. Both income-producing and marketing skills are emphasized. In 2007, the Thai affiliate conducted training events on the theme "Women's rights and leadership". The Malaysian affiliate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, conducted 40 programmes focusing on capacity, motivation and leadership, stress and conflict management, skills development and the family. The Partnership presented a paper at a seminar on the empowerment of women farmers held in the Republic of Korea in 2007.

2. Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina, A.C. (ANCIFEM), established in 1975, is a non-governmental organization independent from government, political parties and churches. The objectives of ANCIFEM are: (a) to refocus the energies and talents of women in order to influence society; (b) to promote a sense of responsibility towards their country on the part of citizens; (c) to create citizens capable of fully exercising the responsibilities of their citizenship; and (d) to create and promote respect for the dignity of women throughout society.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Member of the Mexican delegation at the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Quito in 2007; (b) participated in a follow-up meeting related to the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; (c) member of the Mexican delegation at the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or at Headquarters

Participated in an electoral observation programme in 2006 with the support and recognition of the Federal Electoral Institute and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women: (a) held a workshop entitled "The challenge of being a woman" in various cities; (b) designed and presented a workshop entitled "Routes to equity" at two universities and several companies; (c) organized and held a forum in 2008 on violence against women and legal and social steps towards its eradication; (d) designed and presented a training workshop, entitled "Mega-trends for entrepreneurs", in various cities, in collaboration with the National Support Fund for Social Enterprises and the Ministry of the Economy; (e) designed and presented a workshop for public officers, "Routes to equity: challenges and perspectives", in 2008; (f) conducted an institutional programme to educate citizens about the 2009 midterm electoral process, "Women will change Mexico", with the Federal Electoral Institute; (g) held workshops on "The presence and influence of women in political parties" and "Feminine leadership" in 2005.

Goal 5: improve maternal health: held an integral development and sexuality workshop in 2008 for boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 18.

3. Association of Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Association of Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has changed its name to the Union for Sustainable Return and Integration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Founded in 1993, the Union is a multi-ethnic non-governmental organization that serves as an umbrella network linking associations of returnees, women's associations, farmers' associations and agricultural and other return-related non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Union has been one of the largest multi-ethnic organizations to carry out activities in conflict areas throughout the country. Comprising 98 local non-governmental organizations related to refugees, the Union has as its main tasks protecting the fundamental rights of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, including the right to return to their homes and property and the right to education and insurance; and combating ethnic discrimination in areas to which refugees return, as well as other crimes against humanity. The Union promotes civil society initiatives and strengthens civil society in areas to which return, through cooperation with local authorities and Government institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A winner of awards presented by the International League of Humanists in 2004 and the International Crisis Group in 1998, the Union is an associate member of the European Citizen Action Service, which seeks to promote the rights of returnees and make their voices heard within the European Union.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, the representative of the Union participated in the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2005, and the twenty-third General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, held in Geneva in 2007. Owing to financial limitations, the representative of the Union cannot participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, or in major conferences or other meetings of the United Nations, but the Union is regularly informed about such meetings and their main topics. The Union carries out similar activities at the regional and State levels, which have included a regional conference on the employment and presence of women returnees in local positions of authority and the public sector, held in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

During the reporting period, the Union carried out several projects with the cooperation and financial support of the following specialized agencies: the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Danish Refugee Council, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

Deutschland e.V. and the South-East European Refugee Assistance Network, an association of domestic refugee aid organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Good cooperation has been established with the following specialized agencies, which have a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Organization for Migration and CARE International. In 2000, the General Assembly designated 20 June as World Refugee Day in order to recognize and celebrate the contributions of refugees throughout the world. Since then, the Union has organized a variety of events on the Day, including: visits to returnees, podium discussions and humanitarian assistance activities. Each year, all actions related to World Refugee Day are recorded by media and an official press release is published. Podium discussions are also held to inform the public in Bosnia and Herzegovina about efforts related to world poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals.

In order to commemorate Human Rights Day on 10 December each year, the Union organizes a round table in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local associations and members of the Union report on the current situation in the field and on human rights violations. Conclusions and an official statement are distributed to all public media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: with the financial support of USAID and the Centre for Civic Initiatives (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Union conducted a year-long campaign on the creation of sustainable models for the support of poverty reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2007-2008). Through public advocacy, the Union demanded that laws be changed in order to combat extreme hunger and poverty. The Union suggested three models for poverty reduction: (a) the creation of a fund for the social development of underdeveloped areas; (b) the establishment of an agency to provide training and employment programmes; and (c) the launching of a social (State) pension for the most vulnerable persons older than 65. The campaign also informed displaced persons and returnees about ways to be included in current economic programmes.

Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women: this Goal was the focus of the Union's activities in a project that included the mentoring and empowerment of refugee women. Those activities included assisting refugee women in securing employment in the private and public sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, promoting their rights and helping them to integrate into society. A report on the current employment situation facing refugee women, which states that a mere 1 per cent of them are currently employed, has been distributed to media.

Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability: target 10: halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation: the Union and its member organizations helped to ensure access for households to water, sewerage and electricity. Through a long-term campaign, the Union has contributed to the planned reconstruction of 237 refugee houses/ apartments in Mostar.

4. Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale (Special; 1989)

I. Introduction

The institutional objective of the Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale is to promote the study and implementation of a system for crime prevention and social control. It pursues that objective through in-depth analyses, pioneering research and debates, conducted with a multidisciplinary methodology, on processes of social and economic change in contemporary societies and the resulting demands on the political, economic, legal, judicial and social professions. In so doing, the Centro Nazionale has been lending increasing support to the United Nations in the attempt to achieve common aims in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice while preserving fundamental human values and respecting basic human rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the period under review, the Centro Nazionale continued its multifaceted activities of research and study through its experts, who are active mainly in the legal, economic and sociological fields. It also organized several international substantive meetings jointly with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy, which are based at its headquarters.

2005: (a) Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice", held in Bangkok; (b) fourteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna; (c) eleventh plenary session of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, held in Courmayeur, Italy; (d) 20th coordination meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of institutes, held in Courmayeur; (e) international conference on "Measuring human trafficking", organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and held in Courmayeur.

2006: (a) International seminar on "Chinese and Indian multinationals in Europe", organized by the Centro Nazionale in Courmayeur, aimed at analysing the strategies employed by Chinese and Indian companies in order to penetrate the European market; (b) fifteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna; (c) international conference on "Welfare systems: contrasting models", organized by the Centro Nazionale in Stresa, Italy; (d) international conference on "The problem of war and the ways to peace", organized by the Centro Nazionale in Milan and Courmayeur, Italy; (e) international conference on "The United Nations Convention against Corruption as a way of life", organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and held in Courmayeur; (f) 20th coordination meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Programme network of institutes, organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council and held in Courmayeur.

2007: (a) sixteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna; (b) international conference on educational systems and human capital, held in Milan; (c) 15th International Congress of Social Defence, "Criminal law between war and peace: justice and cooperation in criminal matters in international military interventions", held in Toledo, Spain, and organized by the Centro Nazionale and the International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the University of Castilla-La Mancha, under the aegis of the Spanish Ministry of Justice; (d) twelfth plenary session of the Advisory Council, held in Courmayeur; (e) international conference on "The evolving challenge of identity-related crime: addressing fraud and the criminal misuse and falsification of identity", organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and held in Courmayeur.

2008: (a) Screening in Milan of the film "Trade", organized by the Centro Nazionale and hosted by the region of Lombardy, Italy, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; (b) international conference on "Law and justice in the risk society", organized by the Centro Nazionale, in collaboration with the Research Committee on Sociology of Law of the International Sociological Association, and held in Milan and Como, Italy; (c) seventeenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna; (d) 12th coordination meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of institutes, organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council in Courmayeur; (e) international conference on "Organized crime in art and antiquities", organized by the Centro Nazionale and the Advisory Council, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and held in Courmayeur.

5. European Institute (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The European Institute provides an independent forum in which key decision makers from the public and private sectors in Europe and the United States of America can meet to discuss issues of common concern and develop effective and mutually beneficial solutions. A leading public policy organization devoted solely to transatlantic affairs, the organization is in a unique position to encourage policy debate on the key issues facing the United Nations and its partners in Europe and the United States. Its programmes are designed to increase awareness of issues on which Europe and the United States can effectively further their cooperation and thus promote United Nations activities, particularly those related to the Millennium Development Goals. The programmes are aimed at reflecting the priorities of the United Nations as they relate to policies and attitudes in Europe and the United States. The Institute believes that, when the United States and Europe can work together in a cooperative manner, they can bring about positive change in the world. Thus, the need to sustain and strengthen the world's foremost strategic, economic and political partnership is central to ensuring a better future for all citizens. The mission of the Institute is to act as an early warning system and a mechanism for conflict resolution. During the reporting period, it facilitated common understanding between the United States and Europe on a range of issues such as the use of soft power for global stability; the role of non-governmental organizations and the military in humanitarian assistance; United Nations reform; development policies; the Doha Round; security and economic growth in the Balkans; economic development and foreign aid in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East; and the impact of globalization on employment, investment and innovation. The organization also conducted an extensive programme on the climate change policies of the United States and the European Union (EU) and its member States.

The objectives of the European Institute included the following: (a) to monitor developments in transatlantic relations in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the global economic, security and environment challenges ahead; (b) to anticipate areas requiring additional dialogue between the United States and Europe; (c) to survey the contributions made by the EU institutional framework to common efforts in a number of areas; (d) to serve as a conduit for information between members of the United States Administration and their European counterparts regarding activities and goals of the United Nations; (e) to provide a neutral forum to help Europeans and Americans plan new projects and partnerships, engage new actors and build relationships; (f) and to facilitate a constructive dialogue with third countries, other non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

The Institute supported its objectives through a range of activities, including regular working groups on specific sectoral issues; briefings by Government and business leaders; and off-the-record round-table discussions with senior officials. Through its journal, *European Affairs*, its website and its special reports, it disseminated the information generated by its programmes to a wide audience of policymakers, business executives, non-governmental organizations, the media, universities and independent experts. The Institute also included members of the press and media in its programmes, when appropriate.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Owing to budgetary restrictions, the Institute did not participate directly in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period. However, it organized meetings and conferences in Washington, D.C., to increase awareness of the challenges faced by the United Nations and to encourage decision makers in the United States and Europe to coordinate policies and actions and to work together to address those challenges. The organization cooperated with the United Nations Foundation which co-sponsored meetings and conferences on policies related to climate change and the environment.

Conferences and meetings convened by the organization in Washington, D.C., included:

2005: (a) Conference on cooperation between the United States and European Union on United Nations reform. A report outlining the conclusions resulting from the conference was published with the support of the United Nations Foundation. Articles based on remarks of conference participants were published online and in *European Affairs*; (b) conference on the role of non-governmental organizations and the military in humanitarian assistance. Articles based on remarks of participants were published online and in *European Affairs*; (c) the Prime Minister of Malta addressed a conference on the European perspective regarding economic development and foreign aid in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. His remarks were published online and in *European Affairs*; (d) conference on United States and EU approaches to development policy, focusing on innovations in transatlantic cooperation for economic development. Remarks were published online and in *European Affairs*; (e) conference on cooperation between the United States and EU in meeting the world's energy needs. Remarks were published online and in *European Affairs*; (f) conference on EU policies on climate change and chemical management.

2006: (a) Conference on the strategic use of soft power to improve global stability, security and goodwill; (b) conference on EU and Untied States perspectives regarding security and economic growth in the Balkans. Articles based on the remarks of several speakers were published online and in *European Affairs*; (c) conference on progress made in non-agricultural market access talks in the Doha Round; (d) Conference on United States and EU maritime policies, regarding transatlantic cooperation to secure and protect the oceans; (e) conference on transatlantic cooperation towards a stable energy future.

2007: (a) The Transatlantic Leadership Award was presented to José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, by Timothy Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation, for his support for the European-American partnership; (b) conference on the implications of maritime policies, climate change and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the Arctic; (c) conference on the impact of the European emissions trading scheme on sustainable energy production and energy efficiency; (d) conference on transatlantic approaches to energy security and emerging economies. An article based on remarks made at the conference was published online and in *European Affairs*; (e) conference on new

stakeholders and new strategies regarding transatlantic cooperation on energy and climate policy.

2008: (a) Conference on adapting to climate change to address security and humanitarian challenges; (b) conference on needs and opportunities related to EU-United States cooperation on energy research and development; (c) annual meeting of the Institute's members and its Board of Advisers; (d) meeting on the impact of globalization on European employment, investment and innovation.

6. Institute of Internal Auditors (Special; 1989)

I. Introduction

The mission of the Institute of Internal Auditors is to provide dynamic leadership for the global profession of internal auditing. Activities in support of that mission will include, but will not be limited to: (a) advocating and promoting the value that internal audit professionals add to their organizations; (b) providing comprehensive professional educational and development opportunities, standards and other professional practice guidance, as well as certification programmes; (c) researching, disseminating and promoting to practitioners and stakeholders knowledge concerning internal auditing and its appropriate role in control, risk management and governance; (d) educating practitioners and other relevant audiences about best practices in internal auditing; and (e) bringing together internal auditors from all countries to share information and experiences.

The Institute is the acknowledged authority, recognized leader and principal educator with respect to internal auditors around the world. It develops and maintains the International Professional Practices Framework, which includes the official definition of internal auditing, the Institute's Code of Ethics, the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, Position papers, practice advisories and practice guides. The Institute offers the Certified Internal Auditor designation, which is the only globally accepted certification for internal auditors and remains the standard by which individuals demonstrate their competency and professionalism in the internal auditing field. The Institute also offers the Certification in Control Self-Assessment designation and the Certified Government Auditing Professional designation. The organizational components of the Institute are chapters or national institutes. The total global membership of the Institute grew from 92,262 at the beginning of 2005 to 165,299 at the end of 2008. Approximately one half of the Institute's members are in North America (United States of America, Canada and the Caribbean). Twelve new chapters/national institutes were added during the period from 2005 to 2008.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Institute participated in the sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, held in Seoul, in 2005. Two representatives of the Institute made a presentation at a workshop on auditing for social change.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

During the reporting period, the Institute, in conjunction with the United Nations or its agencies, carried out the following activities: (a) quality assurance reviews of internal audit processes, undertaken for the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Islamic Development Bank; (b) Global Audit Information Network auditing surveys,

provided at the request of the World Bank and IMF in 2006; (c) meetings of Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, held in Prague (2005), Nairobi (2006), Vienna (2007) and Washington, D.C. (2008); (d) in 2008, the Institute commented on the Representatives of Internal Audit Services position statement regarding principles and practices of audit committees; (e) the Institute conducted an internal audit training programme for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome in 2005 and 2006.

7. Oxfam America (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

The only major change in the purposes, structure or scope of action of Oxfam America during the reporting period was that Oxfam America created a subsidiary organization, the Oxfam America Advocacy Fund, under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America so that it could expand its lobbying activities.

Oxfam America is dedicated to creating lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in the world. It funds and provides technical assistance to approximately 200 partner organizations in some 20 developing countries and in the United States of America through seven regional offices, based in Addis Ababa, San Salvador, Lima, Dakar, Pretoria, Phnom Penh and Boston, United States. In 2009, Oxfam America closed its Pretoria office and opened a new office in Khartoum. Oxfam America promotes the advancement of poor people's social and economic rights, including land rights, water rights and labour rights and the rights of women and indigenous people, as well as peacebuilding and access to credit and other markets. It also provides emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance following natural disasters and conflicts. In addition, Oxfam America educates and mobilizes the United States public to pressure the Government and corporations regarding issues relevant to its mission, within the limits of United States tax law. It has an advocacy office in Washington, D.C. Oxfam America is funded primarily by some 250,000 individuals residing in the United States, and secondarily by foundations, private corporations and other affiliates of Oxfam International. It did not receive any funding from the United Nations during the reporting period. Its revenues for fiscal year 2008 totalled $73,137,000.

Oxfam America is an affiliate of Oxfam International, which also has consultative status with the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as does Oxfam Great Britain. However, Oxfam America is an independent entity incorporated as a non-profit organization in Massachusetts. Within the Oxfam confederation, Oxfam International plays representational roles vis-à-vis international institutions, including the United Nations, and therefore maintains permanent offices in New York and Geneva. Oxfam America focuses on advocacy vis-à-vis the Government of the United States and on building support for pro-poor global policies among the United States public, in addition to conducting its own field programmes in developing countries. Oxfam America supports the representational work of Oxfam International vis-à-vis the United Nations in several ways: policy research and analysis, co-strategizing, amplifying messages among the United States public, and lobbying the United States representation at the United Nations. Oxfam America also occasionally represents Oxfam International at the United Nations. Finally, Oxfam America's regional offices in developing countries maintain regular and direct contact with various United Nations agencies, as warranted by the needs of specific programmes.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Oxfam works on a broad range of global public policy issues, from international trade to climate change, from extractive industries to agriculture and from international finance to international humanitarian law. Oxfam therefore engages with the United Nations at multiple levels. Its main engagement with the United Nations relates to humanitarian crises (natural disasters and wars). At the operational level, Oxfam works with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In the area of advocacy, it works mainly with the Security Council. The main crises on which Oxfam focused during the reporting period were the Indian Ocean tsunami and the wars in Afghanistan, Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the ongoing food insecurity in Ethiopia. Throughout the reporting period, Oxfam played a leading role in promoting the creation of an arms trade treaty, which is included in the agenda of the General Assembly.

In 2005, Oxfam was a key player in the Global Call to Action against Poverty, a global civil society coalition that supported the Millennium Development Goals. Oxfam America worked within the ONE campaign to collect more than 2 million signatures in support of the Goals (and further aid to finance their achievement) in advance of the 2005 Millennium Summit, held in New York. Oxfam promoted the concept of the responsibility to protect, which was endorsed at the Summit.

In 2007 and 2008, Oxfam promoted a new climate change agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol. As it did with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, it helped to build a global movement of citizens for an equitable international agreement, while lobbying national delegations in the context of the United Nations process. In addition to lobbying the Government of the United States, Oxfam America funded organizations in Ethiopia to lobby the Government of Ethiopia, which represented Africa at the 2009 Copenhagen Conference. Oxfam also continued its work regarding a Doha trade agreement at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, although at a lower intensity than during the 2001-2004 period, owing to the stalemate in the negotiations.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

Oxfam America's long-term development programmes in developing countries regularly engage with the United Nations. For example, set out below is a list of recent activities in which staff of Oxfam America's East Asia regional office collaborated with United Nations agencies. Most of the activities were carried out in 2008 or 2009, so it is not an exhaustive list for 2004-2008, but rather a list indicating the kinds of interactions that each of Oxfam America's six regional offices regularly engage in with United Nations agencies: (a) humanitarian response programme: worked with WFP on food shortage issues for flood-affected communities in Cambodia and with various United Nations agencies on disaster risk reduction, keeping WFP and the Resident Coordinator informed about the effects of Typhoon Ketsana; (b) agriculture programme: submitted, jointly with FAO, a funding proposal for a regional programme on a system of rice intensification for farmers in Cambodia, Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Other partners included the Asian Institute of Technology and IDS

International; (c) climate change programme: collaborated extensively on climate change issues, including adaptation; co-sponsored a nationwide knowledge attitude and practice study on climate change in Cambodia; and collaborated on a funding proposal for a climate change awareness campaign in Cambodia; (d) extractive industries programme: co-funded a United Nations television and video project, an episode of the *Equity Weekly* programme on the extractive industries; provided technical input into a national workshop on the extractive industries, held in Cambodia and organized by UNDP; and worked with WFP and FAO on policy research regarding food-price increases in Cambodia; (e) co-sponsored, with UNDP and the Government of Cambodia, the first national climate change forum, a major event opened by the Prime Minister; (f) contributed written testimony to a member of the senior advisory group for a national human development report and participated in the recruitment of both national and international co-authors; (g) organized lobby meetings with representatives of the United States and other countries at the United Nations and cooperated on a national workshop on the extractive industries.

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1. Australian Reproductive Health Alliance

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance aims to promote public support for enhanced reproductive and sexual health in Australia and internationally and to further the advancement of women and girls. Formed following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, it strives to have the principles agreed on at the Conference implemented in domestic and regional policy. As secretariat for the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, it engages parliamentarians in discussions on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Australia and overseas, to improve policy outcomes.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Over the past four years, the Alliance actively participated in the meetings and conferences of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities. Some of the key events attended by its representatives include: (a) the substantive session of the Council in July 2005; (b) the 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, held at Bangkok in November 2006; (c) the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

During the period 2005-2008, representatives of the Alliance attended meetings on sexual and reproductive health, development and the Millennium Development Goals in different parts of the world, at which they presented numerous papers and speeches.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The United Nations Population Fund provided the Alliance with funds for advocacy on domestic and regional sexual and reproductive health issues and for secretariat support for the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. In 2008, it extended its funding to support the Alliance's work with parliamentary groups in the Pacific region. The Alliance worked closely with the Fund's Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste country offices and its Pacific region office on this project. The Alliance also launched the Fund's annual State of World Population Report each year, generating awareness of the Fund's mandate and the state of population and reproductive and sexual health issues around the world.

The Alliance facilitated a non-governmental organization forum on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and on lessons learned from non-governmental organizations working in tsunami-struck areas in 2006.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Alliance's aims and mandate are closely aligned to those of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 5, target 2 (Achieve universal access to reproductive health). To support the achievement of the Goals, it observed World Population Day, World AIDS Day, International Women's Day and other commemorative occasions related to sexual and reproductive health, each year. These events were commemorated with press releases and public events and seminars. The Alliance's work in the period 2005-2008 resulted in major policy outcomes in Australia in the area of maternal health.

2. International Bridges to Justice

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The primary aim of International Bridges to Justice is to secure the protection of the basic legal rights of ordinary citizens in developing countries, as outlined by the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specifically, it works to guarantee all citizens the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment and the right to a fair trial. This is achieved by providing direct technical support and training to emerging legal aid organizations; building international communities of conscience to support emerging legal aid organizations; and advocating and supporting the prioritization of just and effective criminal justice systems on the agenda of organizations involved in international human rights and legal development.

Since acquiring special consultative status in 2005, International Bridges to Justice has undergone a dramatic expansion in the geographic scope of its work. Although its operating model remains the same, the programme structure, which proved successful in China, Cambodia and Viet Nam, was expanded to Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe in 2006 and India in 2007. As a result, the number of in-country personnel employed by International Bridges to Justice and the number of in-country lawyers and law enforcement officials trained by the organization drastically increased. International Bridges to Justice was able to promote criminal justice reform in more jurisdictions, advise more citizens of their rights and provide more detainees with access to counsel. It is currently exploring opportunities for opening country programmes in Guatemala, Azerbaijan and Pakistan and has bolstered its geographical expansion with technological innovation, in an effort to reach as many domestic criminal defence lawyers as possible. In 2009, it initiated an e-learning initiative, wherein an interactive legal curriculum specific to domestic legal jurisdictions is developed, vetted by legal experts and published on the Internet. Legal "hypotheticals", namely fictional situations describing a complicated legal case, have already been posted for Rwanda and Burundi, and a curriculum for Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Pakistan, Kenya, Brazil and Swaziland is currently under development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Because of the specialized nature of its work, International Bridges to Justice did not directly participate in the work of the Council and its subsidiary entities during the reporting period. It was, however, actively involved with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In 2008, the Fund financed 17 training sessions for criminal defence lawyers in Burundi and the following year, it provided funding for direct case support for 51 people in Zimbabwe. These projects allowed International Bridges to Justice to make great inroads into the national implementation of such international human rights instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture. International Bridges to Justice

also participated actively in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and attended various sessions of the Human Rights Council.

As both democracy and the rule of law depend upon an independent, functioning justice system, the organization's work supports the more far-reaching social development goals of the United Nations, such as the Millennium Development Goals. However, as a non-governmental organization narrowly focused on the provision of access to counsel and criminal justice reform, International Bridges to Justice works to provide a facilitating framework for the achievement of the Goals, rather than directly contributing to their realization.

During the reporting period, the organization focused its activities on building the capacity of legal aid defence lawyers and implementing criminal justice reform in various national transitional justice systems. Over the past four years, it worked with governmental and civil society partners, in particular universities and national bar associations, in Africa and Asia, to implement criminal defence practical skills trainings, design multimedia legal rights campaigns, facilitate pan-justice system round-table discussions, develop educational materials, and open national criminal defence resource centres, providing both educational resources and direct case support. All these efforts aim to create a vibrant, organic national criminal defence community that will strive for justice reform. In this way, International Bridges to Justice hopes to facilitate the creation of an internationally linked network of national criminal defence communities committed to the prevention of cruel and unusual punishment, through the provision of early access to counsel for all. During the reporting period, the organization partnered with lawyers' associations, legal aid societies and prisoners' rights organizations in such countries as Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Pakistan and Swaziland.

Because the organization employs a very small staff, many of whom are located in-country, travel budgets do not allow for representatives to be sent to international meetings and conferences. Most travel funds are allocated to sending trainers to the field and hosting biannual summits of senior in-country staff. If information regarding relevant meetings and conferences was provided far enough in advance, it could be accounted for in funding applications; International Bridges to Justice would be interested in taking a more active role in the Economic and Social Council civil society community, in particular in relation to the activities of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

3. International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The need for an international organization of Catholic doctors was expressed by Pope John Paul II when he addressed the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations at the fifteenth international congress in Rome in October 1982. In discussing the urgent problem of providing for the safeguarding, defence and promotion of human life through the filter of different cultures, John Paul II said that individual action was not sufficient and that coordination on a worldwide level would allow a more effective defence of faith, culture, and Christian commitment.

The aims of the Federation are listed in its official statutes and are as follows: (a) to coordinate the efforts of Catholic medical associations in the study and spread of Christian principles throughout the world; (b) to encourage the development of Catholic medical associations in all countries, in order to assist the Catholic physician in his moral and spiritual development and technical advancement; (c) to take part in the general development of the medical profession and to promote health and social work, in accordance with the magisterium of the Catholic Church; (d) to devote itself to the study of medical and ethical problems and their practical and theoretical solution; (e) to establish models of cooperation in health and pastoral care with developing countries.

The Federation organizes a world congress every four years in different parts of the world. It helped to establish a biomedical ethics centre in Mumbai, India, to study ethical problems resulting from the rapid advances in medical technology and carried out health-care projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with the active involvement of member associations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation presented a written statement to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-first session in 2007.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation participated in all international meetings, especially those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on topics related to its aims. It also held a forum in Barcelona in 2004, at which the participants discussed cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace. The Federation has worked among very diverse cultures for decades and, as Catholics, its physicians respect their patients as individual human beings, placing

their benefit above political and economic issues and treating them without religious, ethnic, socio-economic or sexual prejudice. The members of the Federation give some of their time to poor people for free and strive to promote happiness by relieving suffering.

C. Promotion of United Nations events

2005: (a) November, Vatican City, twentieth international conference on the human genome; (b) Yaoundé, World Day of the Sick.

2006: (a) November, Vatican City, twenty-first international conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care on the pastoral aspects of the treatment of infectious diseases; (b) October, Rome, MaterCare International's fourth workshop for Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists; (c) September, Rome, conference on stem cells, scientific aspects and bioethical problems; (d) Barcelona, Spain, twenty-second international congress of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations.

2007: (a) November, Vatican City, twenty-second international conference on the pastoral care of sick elderly people; (b) October, Warsaw, international conference on obstetrics and gynaecology; (c) March, Rome, International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations Executive Committee meeting; (d) February, Seoul, fifteenth World Day of the Sick.

2008: (a) November, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, fourteenth congress of the Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations on human dignity in modern medicine; (b) November, Rome, twenty-third international conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care on pastoral care on the treatment of sick children; (c) November, Rome, international congress on organ donation; (d) November, Rome, MaterCare International's seventh international conference for Catholic and other Christian/pro-life obstetricians and gynaecologists; (e) October, Baltimore, United States of America, seventy-seventh annual educational conference of the Catholic Medical Association of the United States of America; (f) September, Gdansk, Poland, eleventh congress of the Fédération Européenne des Associations de Médecins Catholiques; (g) April, Rome, International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations Executive Committee meeting; (h) February, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Canada, sixteenth World Day of the Sick.

III. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations has been working with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) since 1997, engaging civil society and various non-governmental organizations. The Programme and Vatican officials have different opinions but manage to collaborate on a large number of issues. The Vatican is an ally in many respects, and the nuncios working with various United Nations agencies have helped tremendously to bring down the prices of medicines, so they can reach more people in need. Churches have been in the forefront of the HIV pandemic ever since the first man or woman with AIDS walked into a Christian health-care facility; they continue to care for millions of sick and dying people and to give counselling to people who are HIV positive.

4. International Social Science Council

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The International Social Science Council was established in 1952 by UNESCO to foster international comparative, interdisciplinary social science and to represent the social sciences vis-à-vis international actors, in particular through active participation in the implementation of the United Nations agendas. It has formal associate relations with UNESCO. As the primary international body representing the social, behavioural and economic sciences at a global level, the Council has become an essential partner for UNESCO and a major channel through which UNESCO gains access to the expertise of social scientists.

The period covered by the present report (2005-2008) focused on the implementation of a reform process aimed at renewing the Council's role and profile of priority activities. A number of international consultative workshops were held, including on (a) strengthening social sciences in emerging and developing countries, 2006, Paris; (b) brainstorming on a global social science forum and the new edition of the World Social Science Report, 2006, Paris; (c) social sciences cooperation and the role of institutions, 2006, Alexandria, Egypt; (d) emerging paradigms and issues in the social sciences and humanities, November, 2006, Alexandria, Egypt. These events included the active participation of UNESCO and were arranged in collaboration with national social sciences councils, science academies, development agencies, international disciplinary associations and regional social sciences organizations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Council attended the (a) forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development and the thirteenth, fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It served as chair of the United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies Advisory Committee from 2005 to 2008 and participated in working groups with UN-Habitat and UNESCO. It also organized two side events at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Council recently signed a new framework agreement with UNESCO for the period 2008-2013. During the reporting period it participated in: (a) the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the UNESCO General Conference (October 2005 and October 2007); (b) the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST)

Scientific Advisory Committee; (c) the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus (February 2006); (d) the eighth session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (July 2007); (e) preparatory work for the new World Social Science Report, which is expected to be published at the beginning of 2010; (f) consultations on the preparation of the UNESCO draft programme and budget for 2010-2011; (g) the second session of the General Assembly of States parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council co-sponsored international scientific research programmes on the international human dimensions of global environmental change, poverty, ethnic conflict and approaches to peace, gender, globalization and democratization. These programmes included workshops, conferences and initiatives on social dimensions and social regulation of globalization, an area neglected in terms of both research and policy; recent advances in research on ethnic conflict resolution; international and exploitative migration, sex trafficking, insecurity of women migrants, and women and leadership; and the strengthening of research, in developing countries, on environmental change.

5. Oxfam Great Britain

Special, 1973

I. Introduction

During the period 2005-2008, Oxfam Great Britain's work with the United Nations focused on providing assistance to people affected by the Asian tsunami, cooperating and coordinating with the United Nations agencies and Governments of the affected countries. In total, Oxfam Great Britain received about £58 million from United Nations agencies, comprising £22 million in cash and £36 million in food-in-kind. The organization strengthened its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, and contributed in the context of the 2005 World Summit. It also advocated for a Security Council resolution on the responsibility to protect.

The principal objectives of Oxfam are to relieve poverty and suffering in all parts of the world and to educate the public on the nature, causes and effects of poverty. Within these overall objectives, it focuses on five areas closely linked to the Millennium Development Goals namely sustainable livelihoods quality education and health-care protection and assistance during disasters and conflict, capacity-building for policy change and diversity. Oxfam Great Britain raises money principally from individuals, appeals and a network of shops in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and from public grants, in particular from the Government of Great Britain, the European Union and the United Nations. Funding totals fluctuate from year to year, depending primarily on the requirements for humanitarian assistance. Total available funds averaged £213 million per year during the period, with increases primarily as a result of the organization's response to the Asian tsunami. Oxfam GB has sister organizations in 13 countries which work together as Oxfam International. The present report gives some examples of cooperation with the United Nations, divided into three broad areas, namely participation in policy development and advocacy, contribution to the Goals and examples of practical work on humanitarian and development projects. In many cases, these elements are closely intertwined.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Oxfam Great Britain worked with United Nations agencies, the Office of the Secretary-General and many other parts of the United Nations system. It chaired the Global Call to Action against Poverty and, in the context of the 2005 World Summit, advocated and shared information on reforms to the United Nations system, the responsibility to protect, and the Central Emergency Response Fund. It organized and participated in Arria-formula meetings of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, northern Uganda, Somalia and the protection of civilians in armed conflict and gave a formal presentation to the Economic and Social Council on climate change and its impact on poverty. With the Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, it organized photographic exhibits in the Secretariat building on Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organization shared information with and advocated to the General Assembly and the Security Council on climate change and on assistance to and protection of civilians in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, the Sudan, Chad and Sri Lanka. Lastly, it participated extensively in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response on the Standing Committee Principals, the Standing Committee Working Group, and sub-working groups and task forces in Geneva and New York.

B. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Oxfam GB worked with United Nations agencies in the field, particularly the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Over the period 2005-2008, WFP provided about £42 million (including £36 million in food-in-kind and £6 million in cash), UNICEF approximately £4.5 million and UNHCR £3 million for Oxfam Great Britain programmes. Oxfam Great Britain has memorandums of understanding with UNICEF and UNHCR to act as partners in humanitarian response, and has been a very active participant in the water and sanitation cluster, leading and managing a number of projects on the cluster's behalf. The following are a selection of Oxfam Great Britain's programmes with the United Nations:

(a) In Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, it continued to support drought-affected people, in particular in the Wajir region of Kenya, to ensure their food security and to develop livelihood alternatives;

(b) In the Darfur region of the Sudan, it received common humanitarian funds via the United Nations Development Programme to reduce the risk of an outbreak of water-related diseases among displaced persons through the provision of a sufficient quantity of clean water and sanitation;

(c) In Zimbabwe, both food aid and a public health response were funded by WFP and UNICEF to ensure that people forced to flee by the food crises had adequate and appropriate water, sanitation and food;

(d) Worked with UNHCR and UNICEF in eastern Chad to provide refugees and displaced people with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities;

(e) It channelled its community-based protection surveys to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in order to further advance the protection of civilians in the Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Almost all of Oxfam Great Britain's programmes contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, directly affecting millions of people. Examples of its achievements in 2005-2008 include:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Oxfam Great Britain projects in food security totalled approximately £60 million. It undertook food crisis advocacy at the United Nations and with donors, engaging with world food summits and the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. Three million people benefited from the organization's food and agriculture projects.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. Oxfam Great Britain helped approximately 1 million children to go to school.

Goal 3: Promote gender equity and empower women. The organization worked with over 100 women's organizations to promote gender equity and made significant efforts to ensure that gender was mainstreamed.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Oxfam Great Britain worked on 80 HIV/AIDS and socio-economic mitigation projects, with an approximate budget of £12 million.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. The organization provided water and sanitation to over 10 million people and loaned a senior advisor to UNICEF to lead the water and sanitation cluster.

6. Project Kesher

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Project Kesher is the largest Jewish women's organization in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with a grass-roots network of 152 women's groups. Since acquiring its special consultative status, the organization has expanded its network to include 90 interfaith, inter-ethnic women's coalitions, many of which it organized. During the reporting period, it expanded its activities to Kazakhstan, Georgia and Israel. As part of its coalition-building, Project Kesher now works with more than 2,000 organizations and offices of the local, regional and national governments in the communities in which it works. Project Kesher continues to conduct widespread programmes on domestic violence and trafficking in women, and, in recent years, it dramatically expanded its work in the area of women's health, tolerance and economic self-sufficiency. While Project Kesher continues to conduct numerous grass-roots programmes, its leaders have become more involved in drafting policy and influencing the allocation of resources. The organization's funding continues to come from individuals, foundations and, increasingly, the Jewish Federation community.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives attended the fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which they conducted several side events. In addition, the Executive Director of Project Kesher was a keynote speaker at a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) event in the United States in 2007.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Project Kesher applied for financial assistance from UNIFEM but, to date, its grant proposals have not been successful.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Project Kesher conducted widespread advocacy around HIV/AIDS (Goal 6). It engaged in advocacy on health issues, educating women about ways to care for themselves and their families from prenatal care through old age; trained women to understand how their governments make policy decisions and resource allocations

that impact their health and how to advocate, within their political framework, to have their needs met; conducted ongoing programmes to address violence against women in more than 120 communities; and worked with more than 90 women's coalitions to ensure that efforts to achieve gender equality (Goal 3) were well coordinated. Project Kesher is currently in the process of forming a national interfaith women's council that will communicate with the Duma on the needs of women and proposed solutions. One of its most successful interfaith initiatives focused on the role of women in creating more tolerant societies. In 2008, Project Kesher conducted an anti-hate poster contest inspired by the "Not in Our Town" campaign in the United States. These posters were replicated for 100 cities, with the support of the United States embassy in Ukraine, and used to initiate dialogue among schoolchildren and adults.

Project Kesher conducted annual anti-trafficking programmes in more than 100 communities. Its curriculum, developed with "The Angel Coalition", was incorporated into the health programmes of high schools throughout the Volga region of the Russian Federation. Project Kesher conducted widespread outreach in schools and the workplace and worked with the Tahirih Justice Center on the adoption of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005. It currently provides information to women throughout the region about the risks of marrying someone in this manner and their rights if they find themselves in danger.

Project Kesher set up 15 centres to assist women emerging from poverty. More than 17,000 women have graduated from the centres and, for a cost of less than $50 per woman, more than 80 per cent have improved their financial status.

While Project Kesher continued to advance the gender equality agenda in its region, its limited financial and staff resources hindered its participation in past conferences. As the organization grows and its activists transition from largely grass-roots activities to more policy design and implementation, it is expected to increase its presence at the Economic and Social Council.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Center for Studies on Turkey (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Center for Studies on Turkey works to promote German-Turkish relations and knowledge and information about Turkey and Turkish migrants in Europe, to advance cooperation between Turkey, Germany and other European countries and to support research and public relations. Its main task is to prepare and evaluate investigative projects, commentaries and reports and to hold regular conferences and congresses to report on the scientific and political developments affecting the situation of migrant workers in Germany and other parts of Europe. It focuses on the many questions and problems migrant workers face as well as Germany's economic, cultural and scientific relations with Turkey. Practical assistance to migrant workers in Germany is becoming a central activity of the Center. To date, more than 100 research projects have been conducted on behalf of various State and private organizations. Other issues such as the image of Turkey in Germany and the situation of elderly migrant workers and Islam in Germany are also being addressed. The focus of the Center's work has expanded to the promotion of trans-European migrants' networks.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Center participated in the Economic and Social Council Civil Society Forum in 2006 in Geneva and presented a paper on racism and Islamophobia.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In 2006, Center delegates visited the International Labour Organization (ILO) to discuss the labour market integration of non-European Union citizens in Germany. The Center undertook a survey on discrimination against foreigners in the labour market in Germany for ILO in 1995; it participated as an observer in the General Assembly informal hearings on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in New York; and it was re-elected as a member of the German Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

C. Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Center contributed to the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Asia in the following areas:

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

Target 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. The Center contributed to a project, funded by the European Union Socrates programme, aimed at developing and disseminating a packet of tools to help adult immigrants integrate into their host countries. The project focused on the participation of women in the development of self-teaching courses aimed at reducing the risk of social disintegration of female migrants. The Center evaluated the project.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it. In 2005, the Center carried out a pioneering study on the civil society activities of the Turkish community in Germany. The study focused on the incorporation of migrants into the health sector, including in terms of HIV/AIDS.

Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. In 2006 and 2007, the Center carried out a study on the special needs of Turkish migrants with diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes is significantly higher than average in Turkey and within the Turkish community in Germany according to data provided by the World Health Organization.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, and reverse the loss of environmental resources. In 2008, the Center carried out a study on engaging the Turkish community in awareness-raising on biodiversity issues.

2. International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (Special; 1977)

I. Introduction

The main purposes of the Federation are the following: (a) promotion of positive universal values as described in the Islamic faith, such as advocating for human rights, working against corruption, global oppression and injustice, strengthening family ties, feeding the hungry, and helping orphans and the needy; (b) propagating the moderate Islamic viewpoint and combating religious extremism and discrimination, especially Islamophobia; (c) uniting efforts and acting as a focal point for such activities among youth and student bodies of different backgrounds across the globe; (d) providing services and resources to Muslim student and youth organizations.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation continued to represent the world's Muslim student organizations at the following United Nations events, bringing to them the spirit of the United Nations and bringing their voice to the United Nations forum: (a) Human Rights Council in Geneva from September 2006 to March 2008; (b) Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in 2003, 2004 and 2005; (c) Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Geneva in 2003, 2004 and 2005; (d) meetings with the Ambassadors of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Australia and Peru in 2003, 2004 and 2006, respectively; (e) Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; (f) Commission for Social Development in New York in February 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; (g) sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in 2003 and 2004; and (h) sixtieth annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Conference on "Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All", held in New York in September 2007.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation actively participated in a number of events. In supporting Millennium Development Goal 3, Promote gender equality and empower women, the Federation was represented at the meeting of the European Forum of Muslim Women held in Brussels in March 2006. In connection with the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva: (a) in April 2004, the Federation co-sponsored a seminar on terrorism and human rights development programmes. The seminar highlighted the importance of preventing the hijacking of legitimate struggles for self-determination by radical elements who insist on violence as an instrument of political coercion; (b) in March 2005, the Federation co-sponsored a seminar on terrorism in the face of self-determination, in which it presented a paper on the applicability of self-determination; (c) in August 2005, the Federation co-sponsored a seminar on rape as a weapon of war, as it considers rape an atrocious crime against humanity, directly linked to Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations; (d) in March 2007, the Federation co-sponsored a seminar on human rights, focusing primarily on the impact of war on non-combatants; (e) in March 2008, it co-sponsored a seminar on

the relevance of self-determination and civil society advocacy. Its participation was in line with Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations.

Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth: a training course on developing student activities was held in Mali in November 2006 for francophone student organizations from 11 countries. A training course was held in Kuala Lumpur for Asian student groups in February 2007 on successful student leadership and global challenges. A training course was held in the Sudan for Arab student leaders in August 2008.

Activities in support of global principles

Activities in resistance to religious discrimination and extremism include participation in: (a) a conference on moderate Islam in London in May 2006; (b) an interfaith conference (Jewish, Muslim and Christian) at the Islamic University of Rotterdam, Netherlands, in June 2007, where the Federation presented a paper on the link between human rights and human security; and (c) the International Conference on Islamophobia in Istanbul, Turkey, in December 2007.

In support of human rights and global injustice: (a) a Federation delegation visited Darfur refugee camps in December 2006 to assess the deteriorating condition of the victims of violence there, and met with officials of the Government of the Sudan; (b) the Federation conducted interviews with the leadership and people of Darfur to expose the reality on the ground and published a report in various media in August 2007; (c) it held a youth conference in August 2008 on the situation in Darfur and how to improve the quality of life of the people of Darfur. A press interview was also held with the consultant to the President of the Sudan on the matter of Darfur in August 2008.

Press releases were issued in: (a) November 2006, to support the Somali people; (b) in April 2007, on the humanitarian crisis in Somalia; (c) and in December 2006, on the abduction of and security abuses against Egyptian students.

The Federation participated in the Cairo Conference on supporting the resistance and resisting globalism and imperialism, in March 2006, and in an emergency special session of the General Assembly to discuss support for the Lebanese people, in August 2006. Federation Chapters observed United Nations Human Rights Day in Kuala Lumpur, Islamabad and London on 10 December 2007.

3. Kuwait Information Technology Society (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Kuwait Information Technology Society is a non-governmental organization based in Kuwait. It was established on 7 March 1982 with the purpose of enhancing and improving information and communication technology activities at the national level. Its goals are the following: contribute to scientific and technical progress in computer applications, in Kuwait and in the rest of the world; develop the professional and scientific capacity of those working in the computer field; step up cooperation and the exchange of expertise among computer staff in different technical, scientific and professional areas; counsel individuals, companies and public establishments and agencies in the computer field.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Society focuses its contribution to the work of the United Nations on areas related to the information society and information and communication technology. It focuses its activities on three major areas: (a) The World Summit on the Information Society. The Society started its involvement with the Summit during the preparatory meeting in Geneva in February 2005. Its involvement continued through the third preparatory meeting and the second phase of the Summit, held in Tunisia in November 2005. It joined civil society organizations and participated in their activities aimed at putting issues of concern to civil society on the Summit agenda. It joined the Internet Governance Caucus, a privacy and security group, and participated in the daily plenary briefings of civil society organizations. It also participated in the drafting of several civil society interventions; (b) at the national level, the Society participated in the drafting of the national strategy for the information society, which was developed by a national multi-stakeholder committee. The strategy was submitted to the Summit prior to the convening of its second phase.

The Society has participated in the work of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) since its establishment and firmly believes in its mission. Issues related to bridging the digital divide and information and communication technologies for all are of great importance to it. It provided input to the GAID business plan that focused on multi-stakeholder participation, pointed out the importance of distance learning and e-learning practices, reasserted the importance of using information and communication technologies in promoting health awareness, proposed working with international funds to add information and communication technologies as part of their programmes to support e-entrepreneurship and suggested using information and communication technologies to promote citizen-to-government interaction under e-governance. The Society participated in the "United Nations meets Silicon Valley" event organized by GAID in San Francisco, California, in February 2007. It also participated in the "United Nations meets Web 2.0 and information and communication technologies entrepreneurs" event at United Nations Headquarters in March 2008.

The Society participated in the third meeting of the GAID Strategy Council, held in May 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. Its intervention noted the key role that GAID plays as catalyst and facilitator linking information and communication technologies to the

development agenda. It called for the increased use of regional networks and recognized the importance of organizing meetings with the information and communication technologies industry. A Society representative participated in a panel on "Innovative funding for information and communication technologies for development: human resource investments in attaining the Millennium Development Goals".

The Internet Governance Forum was established by the United Nations Secretary-General on the basis of paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society as a multi-stakeholder open policy dialogue and as an open and inclusive process. When the IGF secretariat, prior to the start of the open consultation process, requested all stakeholders to propose themes related to the Forum, the Society submitted three: creating a collective security and privacy baseline, promoting multilingualism while preserving cultural diversity, and capacity-building on issues related to Internet governance.

Since then, the Society has participated in all nine IGF open consultation sessions, held between 2006 and 2008 in Geneva. At the first open consultation, in February 2006, the Society's intervention emphasized the importance of developing a workable model for collective governance of the Internet that is compliant with Summit principles and acceptable to all stakeholders. The Society made further interventions in the open consultations sessions that followed.

The Society participated in all Forum meetings held from 2006 to 2008, in Athens, in 2006; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007; and Hyderabad, India, in 2008. The Society joined two dynamic coalitions that were established during the Forum process: Dynamic Coalition on Privacy and A2K@IGF Dynamic Coalition. During the third Forum meeting, in Hyderabad, the Society jointly organized and participated in three workshops.

The Society was also involved at the level of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group established by the Secretary-General. The Society worked within the Advisory Group to ensure that the views and concerns of civil society and developing countries are addressed at Forum meetings and that the views discussed during the open consultation sessions are reflected in the Forum process. It has also contributed to the organization of Forum meetings and to setting their agenda.

At the national level, it participated in a multi-stakeholder committee established by the Central Agency for Information Technology to create a national framework for Internet governance.

4. Narcotics Anonymous World Services (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes: founded in 1953, Narcotics Anonymous is a global non-governmental organization based on a mutual-support approach to recovery from addiction to all drugs. The organization's name derives from the common use of the word "narcotics" as a general reference to all drugs. More than 53,000 Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held in more than 130 countries around the world. Narcotics Anonymous exists globally (as of July 2009), but is organized locally by member volunteers. The fellowship is financially self-sustaining through member contributions and literature sales. There are no initiation or membership fees, and the only membership criterion is a desire to stop using drugs. Narcotics Anonymous interacts with individuals and other organizations to help addicts find recovery and to ensure that accurate information about its programme is available. It seeks to develop cooperative relationships that benefit both Narcotics Anonymous and those organizations with which it interacts. To maintain its focus on recovery from addiction, Narcotics Anonymous does not affiliate with or endorse any other organization or programme, nor does it express opinions on issues outside its own scope of activity. The basic structural unit is the Narcotics Anonymous group. In a number of countries where Narcotics Anonymous is a relatively recent phenomenon, the group is the only level of organization. In a country where a number of Narcotics Anonymous groups have developed and stabilized, groups elect delegates to form a local service committee. In some countries, especially in the larger countries or those where Narcotics Anonymous is especially well-established, a number of area committees have joined together to create regional service committees. An international assembly of regional delegates, the World Service Conference meets biennially and provides guidance to the World Board, whose members are selected by the Conference delegates. The World Board addresses issues affecting the entire organization. All entities are assisted by the headquarters office, the World Service Office in Chatsworth, California, United States of America. Narcotics Anonymous is not a religious programme, but members learn how to understand and use basic spiritual principles in their lives such as honesty, open-mindedness and willingness. By actively participating in a peer support network, Narcotics Anonymous members develop an ongoing personal recovery programme.

Finance: No membership fees or dues; no major changes in financial status or funding.

Non-governmental organization relations: International Council on Alcohol and Addictions; Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Narcotic Drugs; International Federation of Non-Government Organizations; World Federation of Therapeutic Communities; Asia Pacific Institute of Addictions; European Cities against Drugs; International Society of Addiction Medicine. Twice named recipient of non-governmental organization of the Year by the Iranian Government.

Events: Twenty-eighth World Service Conference, Woodland Hills, California, United States (2006); Thirty-second World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, San Antonio, Texas (2007); Twenty-ninth World Service Conference, Woodland Hills (2008).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

To maintain its focus on recovery of members from addiction, Narcotics Anonymous is not able to affiliate with or endorse any other organization or programme, nor does it express opinions on issues outside its own scope of activity. In keeping with these essential principles, direct interaction with United Nations meetings or events is limited; however, the organization has been very active in outreach and development activities around the world. The development excursions allowed Narcotics Anonymous representatives to interact directly with local Narcotics Anonymous communities and focus on their specific developmental needs. Those trips included:

Latin America: (a) Panama (July 2005): a travel team participated in the Narcotics Anonymous Latin American Zonal Forum, conducting sessions on development of the fellowship's local infrastructure and the importance of public relations and planning for services. The Forum members include Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); (b) Costa Rica (June 2006): a travel team participated in this workshop to assist with fellowship development, infrastructure and Narcotics Anonymous service work in public information and hospitals and institutions. Attendees came from Nicaragua, Honduras and the Dominican Republic; (c) Brazil (October 2007): a travel team participated in the annual Narcotics Anonymous Latin American Zonal Forum; (d) Honduras (February 2008): Narcotics Anonymous sponsored a workshop. Additional follow-up workshops were planned.

Africa: South Africa (November 2008): Narcotics Anonymous World Services staff and World Board members interacted with local members to refine the development of Narcotics Anonymous in South Africa and support ongoing efforts to utilize the South African chapter to provide assistance to other sub-Saharan countries.

Middle East: Saudi Arabia (September 2006): that excursion allowed for an interchange with members involved with governmental public relations and assisted members with fellowship development.

Israel (September 2006): a travel team participated in workshops with local members to assist them with their growth and public relations.

Islamic Republic of Iran (November 2006): Narcotics Anonymous World Services and world members embarked on a three-week trip to solidify the Narcotics Anonymous branch office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, follow up with legal registration issues, hold fellowship workshops throughout the country and assist Iranian members with the building of a Narcotics Anonymous community of women in recovery.

United Arab Emirates International Conference on Addiction (March 2008): Volunteers attended this first international conference in the United Arab Emirates.

Cairo and Middle East workshop (April 2008): Narcotics Anonymous World Services and the World Board travel team participated in a workshop in Cairo to discuss local service delivery issues, including fellowship development, communications, public relations and infrastructure concerns. Members from Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt,

Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran came together to discuss issues of concern in the Middle East.

Asia/Pacific: (a) Thailand (February 2006): Narcotics Anonymous World Services participated in the annual Asia Pacific Forum meeting; (b) the Republic of Korea (April 2006): a cooperative event for outreach between two countries, Japan and the Republic of Korea, focused on public relations and public information (Narcotics Anonymous World Services facilitated these workshops); (c) India (September 2006): Narcotics Anonymous World Services representatives attended a regional service workshop and convention in Bangalore and facilitated an infrastructure workshop in Delhi; (d) Nepal (March 2007): Narcotics Anonymous World Services participated in the annual Asia Pacific Forum; workshops were also held throughout Nepal; (e) the Russian Federation (June 2007): Narcotics Anonymous World Services representatives conducted sessions on effective public relations, service provision to treatment facilities and reliable services throughout a broad geographic expanse for an audience from throughout 11 time zones; (f) India (September 2007): This set of workshops included members from all over India as well as from neighbouring countries and the United States; (g) Kuala Lumpur (March 2008): Narcotics Anonymous World Services participated in the annual Asia Pacific Forum.

5. Qatar Charitable Society (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Qatar Charitable Society is based in Doha and operates in over 30 countries, with field offices in 10 countries. Its mission is to support the abilities of the neediest groups to achieve human dignity and social justice in cooperation with local partners. Its essential values are cooperation with local communities and international partners, honouring human dignity, credibility, professionalism, originality, innovation and quality. It is a signatory to and supporter of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief. The Qatar Charitable Society also strives to observe the Sphere minimum standards in disaster response. It focuses its work on relief and charitable services, emergency response and development, addressing the root causes of poverty, improving access to education, creating sustainable improvement in and access to water, sanitation and health, strengthening families and assisting women and orphans, as well as cultural and seasonal support projects.

The Qatar Charitable Society has been undergoing a significant refocus of its programmes that will result in an integrated approach to programmes that address the Millennium Development Goals as well as its mission and vision. Further, the Qatar Charitable Society has significantly improved its cooperation and partnership with United Nations agencies and other international development agencies, as described in the following sections.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Meetings and conferences attended by the Qatar Charitable Society include: (a) annual consultations of non-governmental organizations and the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva; (b) the humanitarian joint response forum, held in Istanbul in May 2006.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

2005: The Qatar Charitable Society implemented a project with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan on health outreach to vulnerable families.

2006: (a) Partnered with the International Organization on Migration to assist internally displaced persons in Lebanon and migrant workers returning from Lebanon to Bangladesh; (b) contributed to the improvement of water and sanitation facilities in partnership with UNICEF Pakistan.

2007: Improvement of access to education and nutrition in Eastern Sudan in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

2008: (a) Improvement of the educational infrastructure and the water supply system in the occupied Palestinian territories, with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); (b) partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the Somali

agri-productive livelihoods and enterprises project; (c) Food for Education, sanitation and health extension project implementation with WFP, UNICEF and the Government of the Sudan; (d) entered into a partnership and funding agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the occupied Palestinian territories for the Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme project; (e) partnership and funding for United Nations agencies, including WFP, FAO, UNICEF and UNRWA, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat for emergency and rehabilitation work in Gaza (the actual funding agreements were signed in 2009).

C. Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Activities were carried out in Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Baltic states in southern Europe.

Goal 1, Target 3: Under the broad category of poverty and hunger alleviation, especially among children and women, the Qatar Charitable Society has implemented over 85 projects supporting more than 140,000 people, including child feeding, the provision of shelter, and support for orphans, women and families. In addition, the programmes also assisted educational and health-support institutions.

Target 2: Through livelihood, income-generation and microenterprise programmes, the Qatar Charitable Society has helped over 14,000 people increase their income and find employment.

Goal 2, Target 1: Qatar Charitable Society programmes involved improving access to education through sponsoring students and constructing schools as well as providing technical support, such as training involving 250,000 beneficiaries.

Goals 4 and 5 (indirect): By building health clinics, providing medicines and training, the Qatar Charitable Society has indirectly supported Goals 4 and 5, benefiting over 26,000 people.

Goal 7, Target 3: The Society has implemented over 4,000 water, sanitation and hygiene projects benefiting more than 500,000 people that resulted in improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

6. World Resources Institute (General; 1989)

I. Introduction

The World Resources Institute is an environmental think tank that goes beyond research to find practical ways to protect the Earth and improve people's lives. Its goal is for human society to live in ways that protect the environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. The Institute organizes its work around four key programmatic goals: (a) people and ecosystems: reverse rapid degradation of ecosystems and ensure their capacity to provide humans with the needed goods and services; (b) governance: empower people and support institutions to foster environmentally sound and socially equitable decision-making; (c) climate protection: protect the global climate system from further harm due to emissions of greenhouse gases and help humanity and the natural world adapt to unavoidable climate change; and (d) markets and enterprise: harness markets and enterprise to expand economic opportunity.

A fifth goal — institutional excellence — also supports and enhances the Institute's ability to achieve results. From 2005 to 2008, it went through several organizational changes that had a significant impact on its work. It opened an office in China, expanding work on energy, greenhouse gas monitoring, water quality and promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, and upgraded its office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support forest monitoring.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Twenty-second session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, May 2005, Bonn, Germany; (b) eleventh United Nations Climate Change Conference/twenty-third session of the Subsidiary Bodies and the first Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol regarding climate change, Montreal, Canada; (c) twenty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Bodies regarding United States greenhouse gas policies, Bonn; (d) twelfth United Nations Climate Change Conference/twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Bodies and second Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, November 2006, Nairobi; (e) twenty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Bodies and the third session of the ad hoc working group on scientific and technological advice, May 2007, Bonn; (f) United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, April 2007, New York; (g) Vienna climate change talks, August 2007, Vienna; (h) United Nations Climate Change Conference, thirteenth session/twenty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Bodies, December 2007, Bali, Indonesia; (i) Bangkok climate change talks, March and April 2008, Bangkok, Thailand; (j) Bonn climate change talks/twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies, June 2008, Bonn; (k) Accra climate change talks, August 2008, Accra; (l) fourteenth United Nations Climate Change Conference/twenty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Bodies, December 2008, Poznan, Poland; (m) during the period 2005 to 2008, two World Resources Institute representatives advised FAO on the development of forest resource assessments, in Rome and Santiago; participated in meetings of the United Nations Forum on

Forests; advised the United Nations and FAO on the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance conference, Russian Federation, June 2005; (n) during the period 2005 to 2008, two World Resources Institute representatives participated in meetings of the Advisory Committee for the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, North America, of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Washington, D.C.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The World Resources Institute continued to work with UNEP, UNDP and others to promote the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, distribute documentation, and develop and implement a follow-up strategy. Also, in partnership with UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, the Institute prepared, distributed and promoted two editions of the *World Resources* report — *The Wealth of the Poor: Managing Ecosystems to Fight Poverty* and *Roots of Resilience: Growing the Wealth of the Poor*.

C. Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The World Resources Institute, in collaboration with UNEP, supported the development of the Pan-African non-governmental organization EIS-Africa and co-sponsored its Africa-wide conferences, which highlighted the use of geospatial information in support of the Millennium Development Goals. It also collaborated with UNEP to expand its work on The Access Initiative, a global network of civil society groups dedicated to promoting access to information, public participation and justice in decision-making that affects the environment, in support of Millennium Development Goal 7.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. International Women's Rights Action Watch

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) was set up in Malaysia in 1993 to fill the gap between the promise of women's rights and their actual realization, by promoting the domestic implementation of international human rights standards. It aims to enhance women's control over the processes through which they can articulate and claim their rights and freedoms. A key component of the work includes strengthening national women's groups to monitor their Government's adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international obligations to ensure the elimination of discrimination against women, increasingly including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The organization works internationally with a focus on South and South-east Asia, and has a growing profile in East and Central Asia, the Middle East/North Africa, Africa and the Pacific. The organization focuses on women and women's organizations, while at the same time working with women's human rights activists, lawyers, Governments and international organizations. The work of the organization is implemented through three key programmes, which focus on the advancement of women's human rights through advocacy, training and capacity-building and the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The advocacy programme contributes to standard setting in women's human rights at the international level, linking the work of women's groups at the local level with international processes that promote and protect women's human rights (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights treaties). The training programme focuses on building the capacity of women, organizations and institutions (activists, human rights activists, trainers, State officials, lawyers and the media) for advocacy on and reform of women's human rights, developing new conceptual tools and materials that can provide knowledge and skills on the significance and use of the Convention and other human rights treaties to build the capacity of others, expand their national-level advocacy and influence international processes. The knowledge creation programme supports the dissemination of knowledge and experience generated by the organization through its other programmes, publications, the website and the capturing of new knowledge on the evolving nature of international human rights standards, skills and ways to promote advocacy. The organization's strategy for implementing the Convention and women's human rights (known as IDEAS) also responds directly to information queries of national partners, for example, on international laws, domestic legislation, case law related to women's rights and best practices in addressing varying contexts of claims for women's human rights.

During the reporting period, the organizational affiliations were, and continue to be, with: (a) the International NGO Coalition for an Operational Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, working on the campaign to establish an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; (b) the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on building linkages between the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, so that both instruments can be used to support women's claims to economic, social and cultural rights and to build the capacity of women's groups to use the International Covenant; (c) the NGO group on the global campaign for the ratification and use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (d) the women's caucus for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights body, steering committee member of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA), and member of SAPA Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights (gender focal point).

From 2005 to 2008, the membership of the Board of Directors of the organization remained at five persons. The number of staff increased from 10 to 16 persons, 7 of whom are programme staff and 9 of whom are finance and administration staff, some of whom work on a part-time basis.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The organization attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from 2005 to 2008, facilitating the participation and engagement of women. This initiative, run in collaboration with UNIFEM and UNFPA, enables local women activists from countries reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to participate in the review process. The organization provides training, technical assistance and guidance on the coordination and writing of shadow reports, facilitates their attendance to observe the proceedings directly, and provides women with onsite training in lobbying and mentoring. Between 2005 and 2008, through this project, 312 women activists from almost 102 countries have contributed to standard-setting for human rights norms, and have monitored and challenged their Governments to live up to their obligations under the Convention.

In 2005, the organization attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and conducted a side event on the use and ratification of the Optional Protocol mechanisms for 60 participants.

In 2006, the organization attended the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and made a presentation on incorporating gender into development in the High-level Round Table.

The organization attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2005, and contributed to discussions on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It made interventions on the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and to the right to non-discrimination in this context and the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, looking especially at the intersectoral impact of discrimination against women.

The organization attended the second to fifth (2005-2008) sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as part of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an optional protocol and provided input on women's human rights perspectives.

At the inter-committee meetings and annual meetings of chairs of human rights treaty bodies (2005-2008), the organization contributed to discussions on harmonizing the work of the various treaty bodies and on reform of the reporting process and of the composition of the treaty body system. The organization sought to ensure that the reforms taking place take women's perspectives into account, that there is no regression of women's human rights and that space for women's and NGO's inputs in the discussion and deliberation of these bodies is maintained.

The organization attended the first to fifth sessions of the Human Rights Council (from 2006 to 2008), where it deliberated on the newly formed Council to ensure the integration of women's human rights and women's equality in the work of the Council and in the creation of the universal periodic review, advocated on the strengthening and further taking gender into account in the special procedures and any new mandates, and highlighted significant gaps in the representation of women's human rights concerns.

The organization attended the first to third sessions of the universal periodic review in 2008. It facilitated participation and built the capacity of women globally to submit information on women's human rights concerns to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review process.

The organization provided technical assistance on disabled women's rights to the NGO lobby group at the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (New York, January 2005).

The organization attended the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific meeting on the implementation of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (Bangkok, April 2007).

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

At a workshop organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, the organization provided technical assistance on the creation of a manual on implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The organization gave feedback on tools developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia to support implementation of gender mainstreaming by the Government of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, 4 December 2007). With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the organization contributed technical inputs to a workshop on human rights-based approaches to programming where a practical implementation manual, training materials and training of trainers were developed. The organization cooperated with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in South-east Asia

and the Pacific by providing inputs to national and regional programming for capacity-building on the Convention in those regions (2006-2008).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization presented a paper on the relevance of the links between human rights, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals at an expert group meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women on achievements, gaps and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (Baku, February 2005). It provided feedback at a stakeholders consultative meeting organized by UNDP Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, March 2007), which focused on implementation by the Government of Malaysia of key national priorities, including on its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, international treaties and the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Mauritius Council of Social Service

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Mauritius Council of Social Service was founded in November 1965 and has developed from a social services coordinating body into a Council of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dedicated to social services and sustainable social development. The Council was incorporated, by an act of Parliament, providing its legal framework. It is committed to promoting an effective and efficient NGO sector for the promotion of sustainable development, accountability, participation and democracy. As an umbrella organization for NGOs, the Council seeks to promote social and community development and voluntary actions by NGOs. It strengthens its members by initiating communication, collaboration and networking among NGOs and between NGOs, the Government and the private sector, primarily through meetings, workshops, consultations and institutional development activities. The Council strengthens the organizational capacity of its member organizations and plays a leadership role in good governance, policy, advocacy, capacity-building and innovation.

The purposes, objectives and mission of the Council are to: (a) promote voluntary/charitable activities and community and social development in Mauritius, in particular the advancement of social education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness; (b) foster cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes by bringing together representatives of statutory bodies and voluntary organizations; (c) stimulate economic, social and cultural activities for the advancement of the community; (d) assist in the planning and coordination of the activities of member organizations; (e) organize workshops, seminars, conferences and training courses for voluntary social workers, personnel of voluntary organizations and NGOs and professionals to strengthen their organizational and managerial capabilities; (f) coordinate the activities of NGOs in emergency and natural disaster activities and programmes; (g) collect, disseminate and share information pertaining to adult education and development; and (h) promote, encourage and undertake experimental work.

The Council's values are: (a) justice and democracy; (b) professionalism, commitment and passion for service; (c) continuous improvement and ethics; (d) good governance; (e) innovation and creativity; (f) a culture of inclusiveness; and (g) patriotism.

The Council's core services are: (a) development of and support to NGOs and civil society organizations; (b) information-sharing, networking and brokered services, including training, capacity-building, and research and development; (c) advocacy on behalf of NGOs and civil society organizations; and (d) influencing policy to promote responsible citizenship.

The Council has a membership of 250 organizations, it holds an annual general meeting, and is governed by an Executive Committee of 26 elected members one third of which are elected each year for a three-year term. The Chair is elected for a one-year mandate. The Council has a secretariat, which is responsible for the day-to-day management and the implementation of programmes and policies. Standing

subcommittees assist the Executive Committee in its various tasks (capacity-building and health, credentials, finance and general purpose, gender equality, family and the elderly, media and communications, networking and empowerment, small and medium-sized enterprises, social development, sustainable development and youth).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A series of information sessions for member organizations on children's rights, women's rights and domestic violence was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Training was provided on developing a human rights culture for 30 NGO practitioners, focused on protection of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, women's rights, children's rights, and rights of the disabled and the elderly.

In the disability sector, the Council, in collaboration with the Federation of Disabled People, organized a meeting aimed at creating a strong network among NGOs operating in the disability sector in order to avoid duplication of work.

A care training programme for NGOs operating in the disability sector was held to equip participants to provide care and support to individuals with various types of disabilities.

A workshop was held on maximizing the potential resources of the elderly and enhancing their contribution for the welfare of the community.

A project on strengthening the NGO sector in Mauritius was initiated by the Council, in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius and with technical and financial support from UNDP. The project was completed in 2009. The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the NGO sector in Mauritius and enhance its role as a partner of Government and the private sector.

The project included: (a) a participatory and comprehensive assessment of the NGO sector in Mauritius, with specific reference to its structure, performance and impact to date, legal and policy challenges and capacity development needs (including a complete review of the Council); (b) a review of the legal and regulatory framework for the NGO sector and improvements to address emerging challenges; (c) a review of corporate social responsibility policies in Mauritian enterprises, including partnerships between NGOs and the private sector; (d) a review of the Government's policy on the NGO sector; (e) development of a social partnership policy framework for the implementation of Government, NGOs and the private sector; (f) implementation of a capacity development programme for NGOs.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: an exhibition on the theme "Information sharing on poverty activities" and a conference on the theme "Poverty in Mauritius: an agenda for reflection and action — articulating the regional with the local" were held to develop inputs to the Southern African Development Community International Conference on Poverty and Development, which was held in April 2008; six regional workshops on poverty and development were held to ensure that civil society organizations, citizens and vulnerable groups were part of the process. The Council participated fully in the Conference.

Goal 3: in 2005, a brainstorming session was held to discuss values held in society; changes in society affecting the family; needs of families; vision and suggestions for family; areas of activities for NGOs and civil society; and a survey on capacity needs of NGOs in Mauritius, with special attention to gender issues. The main objective of the project was to ascertain the real problems facing NGOs on gender issues, to prepare a three-year action plan and get NGOs engaged in gender-related activities. In 2007, a workshop on the theme "Gender: from concept to action" was held to develop awareness of NGO leaders; to generate skills for social marketing of the concept of gender equality at all levels; and to ease the process of gender equality through a participatory approach. A monitoring committee was set up to design, develop, implement and monitor gender focus activities. Meetings were held with NGOs on the 2007 Sexual Offence Bill to obtain their reactions, comments and inputs.

Goal 7: a capacity-building and empowerment programme was developed to empower community leaders on environment and sustainability. The Council organized a consultative meeting with civil society to contribute to the new national environment policy. Five regional meetings were held on climate change to enhance public awareness, generate knowledge and disseminate information on climate change and its effects, and to promote capacity-building and educational activities.

3. National Fishworkers' Forum

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) represents small-scale fishworkers and the conservation of fishery resources. As a trade union of fishworkers representing the rights and interests of the fishing community, the Forum has dedicated itself to articulating the aspirations of the fishing community in India. Since 1978, the Forum has been at the forefront of helping fishing communities in India. The Forum held a national campaign emphasizing the urgent need to take an ecological view, with the slogan, "Protect waters, protect life" (Kerala, India, March 1989). The programme of work for the period 2005 to 2008 related mainly to tsunami relief and rehabilitation and campaigns for marine fishery, aquaculture and labour reforms.

II. Activities of the organization during the reporting period

2005

Indian coastal communities witnessed the devastating tsunami in December 2004, with about one fourth of the coastline bearing the brunt of the killer waves. The Forum was not equipped to handle relief and rehabilitation efforts on a large scale, and its immediate response was therefore to console and comfort the victims, sensitize Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and facilitate relief and rehabilitation to the extent possible. All the affected state-level organizations of the Forum were contacted and activated immediately on 26 December 2004. A team of volunteers was sent to Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India, who were involved in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in collaboration with various organizations. The funds collected through the Forum's tsunami relief fund were given to the Prime Minister's national relief fund. The Chair and General Secretary of the Forum visited areas affected by the tsunami during January to March 2005 and organized a convention in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, jointly with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies. The convention recommended setting up a national disaster-management authority to tackle natural disasters and running campaigns for marine fishery, aquaculture and labour reforms. The Forum also participated in the nationwide discussion on the comprehensive marine fishing policy 2004. It submitted its proposals and recommendations to the Government of India and organized a workshop in Chennai in August 2005 to discuss various aspects of the policy. A statement on the decisions taken by the state-level leaders at the workshop was released to the media. Organizations affiliated with the Forum conducted various meetings and training programmes during the year in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. During the Global Week of Action (10-16 April 2005) issues affecting fisher people were raised, such as unfair trade agreements, indiscriminate privatization and liberalization, and the right to food, livelihood, water, health and education. The Forum submitted a 42-point charter of demands to the Government. Because of the efforts of the Forum, the fisherwomen and inland fishers have been included in the national scheme for the welfare of fishermen. Implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal

Commission to include fishing communities in the lists of scheduled castes or tribes is the other important work taken up at the Ministry of Agriculture at the national level. The Chair of the Forum participated in the International Labour Conference regarding adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention (Geneva, June 2005) and in a meeting to discuss the Sethusamudram shipping canal project in December 2005.

2006

In 2006, the Forum campaigned for the concerns of fishing communities in relation to fish imports to be addressed at a meeting organized by the Centre for Education and Communication to evaluate the World Trade Organization's non-agricultural market access negotiations. The Forum lobbied the Minister for Agriculture of India on coastal and marine fisheries, fish processing, marketing and trade, coastal and freshwater aquaculture, poor conditions of work of women in fish processing plants, preventing pollution caused by shipbreaking and support for the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention at the International Labour Conference. The Forum conducted a campaign for social security for unorganized sector workers, especially to address the concerns of the fishworkers for inclusion in a draft bill on social security benefits. In collaboration with the Orissa Traditional Fishworkers Union, it led a public protest rally at Dhamra fishing harbour in Orissa against the proposed port construction in violation of traditional fishing rights. The Forum also campaigned against encroachment by the hotel industry into the commons used by fishing communities in Tamil Nadu and the harassment of fishers. The Forum organized a national-level workshop, in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies and the Centre for Education and Communication to discuss issues regarding turtle conservation, fisheries livelihoods, marine protected areas and coastal management zone reports. The representatives of various fishworkers' organizations from all coastal states participated in the workshop. The workshop was followed by meeting with the Minister for the Environment and Forests and the Minister for Agriculture of India. The Forum participated in an international workshop at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on co-management in fisheries, where it argued that there could be no co-management worth the name without empowering the traditional fishing community through radical aquatic reforms conferring custodianship of the fisheries to the community through national legislation. Eminent scholars from Norway, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented papers and explained the need for the co-management approach for the sustainability of world fisheries. The Forum has contributed to the Government's eleventh five-year plan (2007-2012) through its participation in the working group on fisheries, which was set up by the Government to make recommendations on various policy matters related to the fisheries sector. The Forum organized a two-day convention on biodiversity and livelihoods in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve and National Park at Gosava. The convention dealt with the predicaments faced by fishworkers as a result of multifarious restrictions on fishing and other human activities in the tiger reserve and national park. The convention stressed the traditional and customary rights of the fishing community and other forest dwellers, and demanded that conservation and livelihood go hand in hand, which is only possible by making local communities the custodians of natural resources. The Forum attended a dialogue between Indian trade union leaders and the European Union in July 2006 in New Delhi. The Forum delegation raised the issues of the

European Union policy of subsidizing European fishing fleets to plunder southern waters and non-tariff barriers to trade in fish with the European Community, etc. A strategy meeting of the leaders of the Forum was held in August 2006 to discuss the fisheries component of the draft national policy for farmers. Based on the decisions taken at the strategy meeting, a series of intensive campaigns were organized in the different coastal states in October 2006. The Forum conducted a leadership-training programme for the 22 state level leaders from Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal in September 2006. Eminent resource persons from various disciplines imparted training on coastal management, special economic zones and aquaculture legislation. The Chair of the Forum was a panel speaker in the India Social Forum on the impact of globalization on coastal communities. The Forum organized a number of meetings against building a nuclear power plant in West Bengal. Building the plant was expected to cause the eviction of 50,000 people living in 19 villages and to jeopardize the livelihoods of the entire fishing community of Medinipur East. The Forum organized sea safety training programmes and community interaction programmes in Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra states, conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.

2007

In 2007, the Forum participated in the national-level preparatory meeting on the Work in Fishing Convention organized by the Centre for Education and Communication. Following the preparatory meeting, the Forum participated in the strategy meeting in Negombo, Sri Lanka, in February 2007, which was also attended by all major national trade unions from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The meeting developed a joint strategy to influence the respective Governments to take a favourable stand towards the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention at the International Labour Conference in June 2007. The Forum also organized a national convention against building a nuclear power plant in West Bengal. The Chair and General Secretary of the Forum participated in the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers workshop on "Asserting rights, defining responsibilities: perspectives from small-scale fishing communities on coastal and fisheries management in Asia" (Cambodia, May 2008). It organized a national-level consultation on coastal zone regulation amendments, where an action forum was formed. The Forum organized campaigns in all coastal states on 9 August 2007 in the form of a protest march against some of the provisions of the proposed amendments.

2008

In 2008, the Forum organized a number of meetings on the Work in Fishing Convention in a number of states across India. These state-level meetings were useful and highly participatory, sensitizing the fishing community and the concerned government departments. The Forum carried out a campaign for fisher people's rights, with the slogan: "Save the coast; save the fishers". The campaign lasted 58 days and covered all coastal districts in the 10 maritime states and union territories of mainland India. Based on the campaign, the Forum developed a charter of demands. The fishworkers' struggle culminated in a sit-in before the Indian Parliament in New Delhi in November 2008 (a detailed report of the campaign is available online at: http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/usefulDocs/docs/english/%3C1236843867417%3EFULL-NFF-BOOK121208.pdf). The Chair and

other representatives of the Forum met the Minister for Agriculture for discussion on various issues related to fisheries and fishworkers. The delegation handed over its charter of demands to the Minister for Agriculture of India and sought the immediate intervention of the Ministry into the matters raised therein. The Forum Chair and 105 participants from 36 countries, representing small-scale fishing communities and indigenous communities dependent on fisheries for life and livelihoods, attended a civil society preparatory workshop for the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries. The preparatory meeting adopted a joint statement on sustainable fisheries, which was discussed in the plenary of the Global Conference. The Forum also attended the Global Conference, which was jointly organized by FAO and the Government of Thailand.

III. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The contribution of the Forum included oral and written statements, proposal of agenda items and organization of parallel NGO meetings and side events.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The cooperation of the Forum included preparation of or contribution to research papers and studies, joint sponsorship of meetings, humanitarian activities and operational projects and financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations.

The Chair of the Forum participated in the ninety-third session of the Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the adoption of Work in Fishing Convention in June 2005. The Chair also attended the panel discussion on ILO labour standards for the fishing sector on 14 June 2005.

The Chair of the Forum attended the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, jointly organized by FAO and the Government of Thailand (Bangkok, October 2008).

C. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

The organization could not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because of scarce funds and few representative staff members (all volunteers) attending international meetings. Its focus was mainly on activities at the grass-roots level, mainly to strengthen its organizational structure and focus on the struggle for life and livelihoods of Indian fishworkers.

4. Partnership Africa Canada

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) works in partnership with organizations in Africa and Canada and internationally to build sustainable human development in Africa. It has offices in Ottawa and Addis Ababa and is governed by a Board of Directors drawn in equal numbers from Canada and Africa. The organization undertakes research and policy dialogue on issues affecting Africa's development. During the period in question, its programmes focused on peace and human security, human rights and good governance.

II. Participation in United Nations meetings

During the period in question (2005-2008), the PAC Africa Bureau in Addis Ababa has continued to participate in various meetings organized by the United Nations. The organization's Research Director spoke at a panel discussion at the United Nations in New York in January 2007 following a special screening of the film "Blood Diamond".

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Collaboration with United Nations bodies during the period 2005-2008 included collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism Support Unit of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa. Examples of the collaboration are: (a) ECA-organized subregional civil society workshops on the African Peer Review Mechanism in Addis Ababa (January 2006), Douala (June 2007) and Bamako (July 2008). Provided financial and technical assistance to national civil society organization workshops on the Mechanism in Burundi (June 2008) and Côte d'Ivoire (August 2008); (b) in 2008, helped ECA Support Unit prepare a training manual on the Mechanism for African civil society; (c) in 2005, attended the International Conference for Peace in the Great Lakes Region, which was coordinated by the United Nations in Nairobi, to provide technical advice about the certification of high-value minerals, which have been a source of conflict in the region.

PAC's assistance included: (a) assisted in the drafting of the Great Lakes protocol on combating the illegal movement of natural resources in the region and two subsequent projects; and (b) ongoing work of the technical group overseeing the implementation of the protocol.

The organization took action on United Nations resolutions. As a member of the Kimberley Process, PAC has helped to implement General Assembly resolution of December 2000 with respect to the work of the Kimberley Process in developing an international system to prevent conflict diamonds. This has included specific actions in countries such as Liberia, where United Nations sanctions were imposed.

5. Public Services International

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Public Services International (PSI) is the global union federation for public sector trade unions. Founded in 1907, PSI currently represents 685 affiliated trade unions in 160 countries around the world, and coordinates public sector struggles for workers' rights, social and economic justice and efficient and accessible public services. Together, these unions organize more than 20 million public sector workers, providing services in central government, health and social care, municipal and community services and public utilities. PSI campaigns to improve the quality of public services, working closely with international organizations, national Governments, consumer lobbies, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and unions. Based in Ferney Voltaire, France, on the French-Swiss border just outside Geneva, PSI has regional offices in Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Togo, Ukraine and the United States of America. In September 2007, the PSI Centennial Congress adopted a global policy and strategic objectives for the period 2008-2012, with quality public services as the overarching theme and guiding principle for all of PSI's work. New areas of focus for PSI, reflected in the resolutions adopted at the Congress, include the Millennium Development Goals and the role of public services, international migration and climate change. The PSI Constitution was amended at the Congress to include a young worker representative from each region on the PSI Executive Board, as well as on the PSI Regional Executive Committees, in order to involve more young people in the activities of PSI and to make sure they have a real influence in the work trade unions are doing. At the Congress, a new General Secretary was elected, replacing the previous General Secretary, who had held this position since 1981.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization has been visible throughout the period in various United Nations and related bodies and at various levels, on a broad range of issues. Much of PSI's engagement with the United Nations is with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Freedom of association and collective bargaining are the fundamental basis of all PSI's work to promote quality public services, through campaigning to defend workers' rights; effective use of ILO and other United Nations agencies' supervisory mechanisms; and campaigning for multilateral organizations to link respect for fundamental rights to trade agreements. The organization continues its active

participation in the annual International Labour Conference and each year a PSI representative addresses the Conference Plenary.

In 2005 and 2006, ILO worked with PSI on a project to examine the implications of services liberalization in a range of public services and across a number of types of security issues, including employment, income, health and safety. A book, *Winners or Losers? Liberalizing Public Services*, covering global trends and impacts in services liberalization, was published by ILO in 2006 as a result of this project. PSI worked with ILO on a number of in-country projects to foster social dialogue in water and energy utilities, with activities in Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Peru and the Philippines. The first country project started in Kenya, with a national tripartite workshop on social dialogue in the water sector held in November 2007 in Nairobi.

PSI provided ongoing advice to affiliates wishing to submit cases to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association. PSI also submits cases to the ILO Committee of Experts and has called for the direct intervention of ILO, where necessary, for example, in 2007 there were 32 cases concerning public sector trade unions before the Committee. Each year, ILO has provided financial support for several PSI projects. In 2006, this included the PSI inter-americas anti-racism conference on the theme "Racism is a trade union issue", held in Miami in December, and an external evaluation of PSI's pay equity campaign. In December 2007, the ILO co-funded a regional PSI meeting in Manila to promote trade union involvement in the development projects of the Asian Development Bank. The organization is also working with the Bank to develop social benchmarking in utilities.

Since 2007, various departments within ILO have been co-funding PSI's international migration project targeting women workers in the health sector. Support has also been received to develop a resource kit for the promotion of PSI's quality public services campaign.

PSI continues to create and strengthen alliances at all levels between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) sharing similar concerns. The organization participated in the tripartite meeting of experts to develop joint ILO/WHO guidelines on health services and HIV/AIDS (Geneva, April 2005). PSI was also instrumental in 2005 in raising funds from WHO for the development of a Global Unions/WHO partnership programme to assist in the achievement of universal access to treatment. The organization continues its active involvement in the Global Unions HIV/AIDS programme and its advocacy efforts. In 2006, this involved close cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, WHO, ILO and the World AIDS Campaign. In 2008, PSI worked on the dissemination and implementation of new WHO guidelines for post-exposure prophylaxis and treatment for health workers exposed to HIV. It also participated in the seventeenth International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, August 2008) and in the Global Fund Partnership Forum (Dakar, December 2008).

In 2007, PSI participated in international efforts, at both WHO and ILO, to monitor the advance of avian influenza and to ensure that procedures are in place to protect health workers in case of an outbreak. The organization also lobbied for the adoption of the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health and cooperated with WHO staff to develop and implement a specific plan for health workers, including a campaign to immunize health workers against hepatitis B, with a pilot

programme being launched in Peru in 2007. It participates in the WHO Safe Injection Global Network, advocating for measures and devices to protect health workers from infection with blood-borne pathogens (HIV, hepatitis B). The organization is an active member of the Global Health Workforce Alliance, a WHO initiative to address the global shortage of health workers, estimated at 4.25 million, and participates in the WHO task shifting project, which includes initiatives to increase the number of community health workers, shifting of tasks and redeployment of personnel. The organization successfully advocated for language in the WHO task shifting guidelines to address the potential impacts of the introduction of large numbers of community health workers to the viability of national health systems, as well as on labour standards and quality of care. The Joint Programme between PSI, ILO, WHO and the International Council of Nurses on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector continued its activities throughout 2005. In 2007, the four partners began work on a new training manual on the topic. For the first time, in 2008, PSI prepared materials for use by affiliates in their efforts to highlight the issue of violence against women, its impact in the workplace and the role of trade unions, which were launched on 25 November 2008, the official International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The organization continues its annual active participation in the Commission on the Status of Women, participating in various panel and side events, such as the ILO/Global Unions workshop on "Working women's voices" in 2005, and lobbying with other union bodies for the inclusion of language concerning the role of trade unions in promoting gender equality in the workplace. In 2007, PSI joined women's groups during the Commission on the Status of Women to advance discussions on strengthening the United Nations gender equality architecture as part of the United Nations reform process. Each year, PSI and its affiliates mark International Women's Day on 8 March with campaign materials, public forums, marches and rallies in many parts of the world around different themes. "Public services are essential for women's equality" was the message sent to Heads of State in 2005, calling on them to invest in public services as essential to meeting their international commitments under the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006, the theme was "Equality at work: the global picture", with a colourful wall map showing which countries around the world have ratified ILO Equal Remuneration Convention and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention and what the gender wage gap is in selected countries. In 2007 and 2008, PSI affiliates linked International Women's Day with World Water Day on 22 March, pointing to the importance of public ownership and management of water for women and gender equality and calling on Governments to keep water services in public hands.

The organization continued its cooperation to promote pay equity through the PSI/ILO/Global Unions Pay Equity Discussion Forum in 2005 and 2006, which were opportunities for the different ILO departments working on equal pay issues to meet with representatives of the global unions. PSI took part in a tripartite course on pay equity and job evaluation methods hosted by ILO in 2007 in Turin, presenting its work on pay equity with a particular focus on the Philippines.

The organization is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation to promote pro-public policies. In October 2006, Kofi Annan mandated the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to create an office for a Global Water Operators' Partnerships

Alliance, one element of which will be worker participation in decision-making. The organization nominated two members to the Steering Committee for the Alliance, and is working to design a code of conduct for the Alliance. The organization argues that it is not possible to improve utilities without involving workers and unions and has been collecting information on union experiences of worker participation.

The organization was involved in the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Brussels, July 2007) and the second meeting of the Forum (Manila, October 2008) working with members of civil society in lobbying for a rights-based framework. Prior to the second Forum, PSI organized a workshop on trade and gender issues affecting the lives of working women, underlining the importance of the Millennium Development Goals in attacking poverty and the need to integrate the Goals into national constitutions and education programmes to make this feasible.

The organization continues to work with the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on a number of public sector issues, monitoring new policies and advocating for the interests of workers in local and regional governmental structures. It also participated in several OECD Trade Committee events preparing for the World Trade Organization sixth Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, December 2005).

The organization participated in several United Nations conferences in the reporting period. It was part of the International Trade Union Confederation delegation to the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2007), which had a special focus on energy, industrial development and climate change. In 2008, PSI participated, inter alia, in the second Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the thirteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference, the Doha Global Civil Society Forum and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education works to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, in Maharashtra, India. It works in close association with grass-roots organizations and international non-governmental agencies. During the reporting period, it facilitated the formulation of State policies for children; developed strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and care and for improving the status of the girl child; and developed a training module for elected women representatives.

In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other groups, it implemented a project to prevent malnutrition among children under three years of age; sustain reduced levels of micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine and vitamin A); and improve home childcare practices, including infant and young child feeding and care practices. Activities included counselling women on how to feed their children and manage diarrhoea; conducting monthly campaigns on immunization, deworming and vitamin A supplementation; providing health-care and nutrition programmes to 10,000 street children; and helping 6,000 gifted children to complete their education.

The Academy also implemented an HIV/AIDS programme for children designed to reduce vulnerabilities, slow down the rate of new infections and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in children and young adults. In addition, it worked to prevent sexual abuse of children and child trafficking.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(a) Reduced infant and maternal mortality rates through appropriate interventions in health, nutrition, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and special care for girls and women; (b) reduced child malnutrition and the incidence of low birth weight; (c) ensured quality elementary education for all children; (d) enhanced child protection including progressive elimination of child labour; (e) helped to prevent child sexual abuse and child trafficking and protecting children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS.

2. Concerned Women for America

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Concerned Women for America defends the welfare of women and families by promoting social policies that foster healthy family relationships. During the reporting period, it participated in numerous United Nations conferences, at which it provided information on gender and family issues and hosted workshops on topics of concern to women.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings: (a) Commission on the Status of Women, March 2005; (b) informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, June 2005; (c) Commission on the Status of Women, March 2006; (d) ad hoc committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2006; (e) 2008 High-level Meeting on AIDS; (f) Commission on Human Rights, April 2005.

3. Grameena Vikas Samithi

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Grameena Vikas Samithi was organized by a group of socially conscious, educated young men and women, who are concerned about poverty, illiteracy and hunger. During the reporting period, the organization carried out activities in the fields of agriculture, the environment and nature conservation, women's and child development, and health and family welfare. For example, it implemented a project on participatory technology development in integrated farming in five villages in India that included the management of rainwater and the enhancement of soil fertility and crop productivity. Another project was the establishment of a training and production centre for jute diversified projects such as soft luggage and handbags. The organization was also involved in educating target groups on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, and in implementing a programme to diagnose hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease in the administrative divisions of Chandragiri and Pulicherla.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Developed community seed banks and attained sustainable food security for 100 families in 10 villages; Goal 6: Organized World Aids Day 2007 in the village of Amudalakona; Goal 7: Implemented projects to increase biomass production and improve soil, thereby helping to ensure environmental sustainability. Its project on jute diversified products contributed to the efforts to mitigate global warming.

4. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies is dedicated to the advancement of policy, programme and service initiatives that seek to reduce traumatic stressors and their immediate and long-term consequences. Since its establishment in 1985, the Society has provided a forum for the sharing of research, clinical strategies, public policy concerns and theories on trauma around the world through its education and training programmes and publications. At the end of 2008, 49 countries were represented in the Society. Through its travel grants, sliding scale membership and conference fees, and participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) programme for Internet access to health research, it continues to demonstrate its commitment to global partnerships. In its mission to reduce trauma and its effects, it advocates for human rights, refugees, justice, women's and children's rights, physical and mental health, emergency planning, and development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives regularly attended Department of Public Information briefings and meetings and special events of the NGO Committees of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, including the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Mental Health, the NGO Committee on Human Rights and the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Human rights: Beginning in 2006, the Society monitored the establishment and activities of the Human Rights Council. It also observed all Human Rights Days, the International Day for the Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade (25 March 2007), the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in March 2007, and the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in January 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Counter-terrorism, crime and justice: The Society helped to organize and spoke at an event on the trauma of terrorism, which was co-sponsored by 11 Governments and the Department of Political Affairs, as part of an overall lobbying initiative to focus on victims' mental health and trauma, rights and care. It also attended a summit on democracy, terrorism and security in March 2005 in Madrid, and numerous United Nations meetings on counter-terrorism between 2005 and 2008. At the tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in 2005, the Society helped to organize and participated in four international ancillary panels on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, the

trauma of terrorism, the victims' role in the International Criminal Court, and restorative justice.

Rights of women and children: The Society participated in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, and one session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2006.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Society contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings published in 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Society participated in an international conference on health and environment and bridging policies for action on the Millennium Development Goals in April 2005; a round table on building State capacity to meet the Goals; and a workshop on addressing the Goals, organized by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee in March 2006.

5. National Council for Research on Women

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Since 1981, the National Council for Research on Women has helped to shape the future for women and girls. With over 100 research and policy centres and more than 2,000 top-level researchers, it provides the knowledge and leadership needed to foster fully informed debate, policies and practices and to build a more inclusive, equitable, and secure world for women and girls. The key to its success is highly focused, accessible, timely research.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives of the Council attended the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women each year and organized side events on such topics as women and corporate social responsibility and the role of women in transforming international development.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The president of the Council presented a speech on women in leadership at the annual luncheon of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in New York in February 2008.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council organized activities that support global principles and are aligned with Millennium Development Goal 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women). It collaborated with the White House Project to develop an initiative entitled "Building total security through women's leadership", which widened the parameters of the American discussion on security and security policy and promoted women as equal partners with men in reframing the international dialogue. The Council also organized annual conferences on women's issues, which attracted some 400 participants each year, including scholars from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. It published a report on tax reform strategies that promote gender equality as well as a report on "women's gains and gaps" that covers progress on women and the economy, education and training, health, safety, violence and war, and political participation.

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1. Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation was established in 1990 at the First Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North. The Association works to protect the human rights and legal interests of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia, as a means of addressing social and economic problems, environmental and health issues, and cultural development and education issues. The Association is working to ensure rights to land use and resources, and to self-government according to international legal standards. The Association is actively participating in the development and implementation of a federal programme on the economic and social development of indigenous peoples. In cooperation with the Parliament (State Duma) and the Government of the Russian Federation, the Association is working towards legislation on indigenous living conditions and economy. The Association comprises more than 270,000 individual indigenous members, organized into 34 regional chapters. Being the only umbrella organization representing 40 indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation, the Association believes it is important to have an opportunity to play an effective role in the decision-making process, which ultimately will affect the lives and situations of not only indigenous peoples but also Russian society as a whole. The Association is involved in international activities and negotiations, and is a permanent participant in the Arctic Council. The Association regularly takes part in sessions of United Nations bodies on indigenous issues, human rights and sustainable development, and holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Association became a laureate of the Global 500 Roll of Honour of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1999.

II. Contributions to the work of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, human rights programmes and country offices

2005: (a) arranged, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, an international round table on indigenous peoples and the United Nations system; (b) participated in the eleventh session of the open-ended intersessional working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; and (c) released publications on United Nations specialized agencies and indigenous peoples and on international law and standards for human rights, sustainable development and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

2006: (a) in a partnership with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, hosted an international seminar on strengthening the role of indigenous peoples of the North in the activities of the Permanent Forum; (b) obtained accreditation to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual

Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization and attended its ninth session; (c) attended the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as co-sponsor of some side events with the Russian Government; (d) took part in the first session of the Human Rights Council to promote the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (e) participated in the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; (f) arranged a round table on the ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 by the Russian Federation; (g) in partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, hosted a meeting of international experts to develop content for the report on the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

2007: (a) worked on the publication of reports on indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories and natural resources, and on the Millennium Development Goals; (b) attended the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (24th GC/GMEF) and VIII Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF); (c) hosted an international seminar for experts of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on indigenous peoples and private sector; (d) attended the sixty-first session of the General Assembly to lobby for the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (e) Convention on Biological Diversity actively involved in the fifth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions, and of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on access and benefit-sharing; (f) contributed to a report on nomadic peoples at the International Conference on Education.

2008: (a) contributed to the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages; (b) submitted a parallel report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; (c) submitted a parallel report to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review mechanism; (d) attended the first session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Human Rights Council; (e) partnered with the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to host an international conference on cooperation between the United Nations system and the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East; (f) jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted an international seminar on indigenous peoples and industrial companies.

2. Children of a Better Time

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization

Children of a Better Time is an international non-governmental non-profit organization concerned with the severe global public health problems affecting children. Its purpose is to further the health, well-being and quality of life of children worldwide through intergenerational, gender-oriented public health research, the dissemination of knowledge and the funding of projects. The Convention on the Rights of the Child serves as the primary guiding principle for the organization's health policy research and programmes.

Focus of activities 2005-2008

While Children of a Better Time continues to address a broad range of issues, the Millennium Development Goals have become a strong focus of its activities during this reporting period. In particular, Goal 5, to improve maternal health, and Goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women, have been important. In focusing its activities this way, Children of a Better Time is able to emphasize an intergenerational approach to the health and well-being of children and youth, and the interdependency between the areas of health and human rights.

Strengthening of academic collaboration

Cooperation with academic institutions and the use of scientific methodology were further underscored as foundations for programme design, field operations and advocacy in addressing the plight of vulnerable children, especially girl children. The organization appointed a scientific adviser to further expand its work in this area. Children of a Better Time collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and expects to develop an even closer cooperation with this United Nations specialized agency. It has also consolidated its cooperation with other international academic institutions to further its education and advocacy programme concerning children's participation.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Children of a Better Time closely follows all United Nations events pertaining to its mandate. This has come to play an increasingly important role as the research and programme activities of Children of a Better Time are closely linked to the issues of primary concern established in the Millennium Development Goals.

Since obtaining special consultative status, Children of a Better Time has been represented at one major United Nations event: the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". Its participation was an important platform for local and international engagement to improve the health and living conditions of the girl child, especially in low-income countries with very high maternal, prenatal, neonatal and infant mortality rates. Children of a Better Time has been keeping abreast of the follow-up discussions to the fourth World Conference on Women, the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the implementation of the resolutions related to the World Summit for Children. Its ongoing programme activities to improve the situation of the girl child relate directly to the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This strong focus of activities on the health and well-being of the girl child has become closely linked to international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the twenty-first century.

During the reporting period, Children of a Better Time was engaged in thematic areas closely pertaining to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations. In order to further exchange knowledge and experiences with the international community, plans will soon be expedited to undertake special activities (i.e., lobbying, publishing, organization of non-governmental organization meetings and side events) within the scope of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In conducting and planning research in the field, Children of a Better Time has worked with WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals were a strong focus of both research and programme activities during the reporting period. Children of a Better Time became involved in these activities in light of the prevailing high risk of maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia and the slow progress made in saving mothers' lives.

Children of a Better Time undertook the following activities in the context of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 5, target 1: (a) based on its intergenerational, gender-oriented research on the vulnerability of children to severe public health problems, the organization launched a pilot research programme in Yemen on mothers, daughters and pregnancy outcome, targeting young women below the age of 18 in particular; it also conducted a sub-study on male children and the relationship between high maternal mortality rates and domestic violence and ill-treatment of women; and concluded that skilled health workers at delivery were key to improving outcomes; and (b) Children of a Better Time conducted research into women's health care and maternal health-care services and staff training programmes, focusing in particular

on the relationship between the well-being of the mother and that of the child. Steps have been taken to initiate research in the Horn of Africa to investigate harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, particularly girl children.

Goal 3: (a) a research study was conducted in Yemen on the empowerment of women and young girls in relation to perceived victimization and their own views on the possibility of change; (b) education and advocacy in Yemen, through an educational programme for the health sector, planned with national and international organizations and some specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Goal 2: international education and advocacy, through an initiative with the Public Health Sciences Department of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, which aims to present ongoing and completed research of importance for children and young people and to teach methodologies for conducting research for and with children and young people. Participation of the girl child has been emphasized. Through this initiative, cooperation was extended to include several universities in Sweden and steps were taken to extend this collaboration internationally (primarily in the European Union).

3. Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works in the area of social action and development. Its mission is to defend and promote individual and collective social, socio-environmental, sexual and reproductive rights, contribute to the social development and improvement of health and extend the access to services and products. The organization's work is based on defending human rights, promoting education and providing assistance in ensuring sexual and reproductive health, in collaboration with governmental bodies and organized sectors of civil society. Established in 1965, it develops partnerships with both the public and the private sectors. Its mission includes the objectives of gender equality, the increased role of youth and the reduction of all forms of violence against women. It also works to promote health and to protect the environment, as part of its efforts to enhance the well-being of people and organizations. The organization values excellence, transparency, innovation, responsibility and commitment to the local culture.

Present in more than 1,000 cities throughout Brazil, as well as in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society comprises several social action units, health clinics, youth centres and distribution centres, among other areas.

With its infrastructure and professional staff, the organization uses efficient and easily transferable methodologies to offer quality services related to social action, advocacy, information and education; to conduct demographic and social research; operate medical clinics and laboratories; and provide condoms to the public. During the reporting period, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society provided services mainly to the low-income population, and to women within that group.

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society also works to strengthen commitments to human rights in the social, economic and political spheres. It is also active in South-South cooperation initiatives and strategically chooses to develop partnerships that have a positive impact and that contribute to sustainable growth and social development. As a member of the International Council on Management of Population Programmes, it contributes to population and development programmes focused on advocacy, innovation and the strengthening of civil society organizations. In the partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, it continues to support capacity-building efforts benefiting Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Latin America.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society participated in a number of United Nations events including sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, a meeting of the non-governmental organizations Committee on Youth and various forums and events related to the Millennium Development Goals, to HIV/AIDS and to ending poverty and hunger.

B. Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2004 and 2005, in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and supported by UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society organized several workshops aimed at promoting dialogue and consensus between different stakeholders to analyse challenges, especially those related to health, in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Government, legislative and civil society representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in the events, which culminated in a regional commitment on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

C. Other activities

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society, in cooperation with various United Nations entities, was involved in a study on the acceptability of condom use, education and learning programmes, and youth services and HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives.

4. Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana: (a) inspires, promotes and encourages voluntary work for, and solidarity with, those in need in the Valencian community; (b) promotes the values of solidarity and voluntary work among the general public; (c) provides volunteer training to encourage inter-association cooperation; (d) provides non-governmental organizations with resources, working with the community and the business sector in particular, to promote corporate social responsibility; (e) conducts research and issues publications; and (f) promotes Corporate Citizenship.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization attended the Economic and Social Council Innovation Fair, held during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2009 of the Council, to explain its volunteer programme and its efforts to address emergency public health situations.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization is a member of the European Volunteer Centre and works with the Centre's Board of Directors.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the Valencia region, as follows:

Goal 8, target 5: in cooperation with the private sector, it gave computers to some 100 non-governmental organizations, thereby making available the benefits of new technologies, in particular information and communications technology.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The organization adopted the 10 principles of the Global Compact and consolidated its work to promote the principles to young people. In addition, it observes International Volunteer Day.

5. International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

Special, 1961

I. Introduction

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers was founded in Paris in 1928. According to article 2 of its by-laws, its activities are inspired by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Federation aims to: (a) promote and raise awareness of the fundamental principles mentioned above; (b) encourage and help its members in their activities with parliaments, Governments, or any other competent authority, and with the public in order to ensure that these principles are embodied in national legislation and applied in the judicial system; (c) compile information about the legal, social and economic status of women around the world and study all laws affecting that status; (d) promote friendship and unity among Federation members and with other international women's organizations and international jurists associations; and (e) contribute to the promotion of peace in the world. Its main course of action is to promote the human rights of women. The Federation holds its congress and general assembly every three years. The Federation Council meets once a year and is composed of three representatives of each national association. The Board, elected by the Council, meets twice a year. Whenever those meetings take place, the Federation organizes seminars and conferences, open to any jurist, where relevant issues are discussed. Federation affiliates include 35 national associations and 36 individual members. It is funded solely through the dues paid by its members.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the Federation participated in all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, presenting statements and organizing side events, at which participants discussed subjects related to the Millennium Development Goals from a legal and gender-based point of view. During the reporting period, the Federation also attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, meetings between non-governmental organizations and UNESCO and meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others. The Federation is represented in a number of United Nations agencies, offices and subsidiary bodies.

The Federation joined UNIFEM "Say NO to Violence against Women" campaign and asked its members to support and publicize the campaign. The Federation posts all important documents and publications released by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on its website. During the reporting period, Federation members observed International Women's Day, the World Day for International Justice and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The human rights handbook of the United Nations was distributed to all national associations and individual members. During the reporting period, the Federation studied two general themes: equality as a fundamental right and women, war and law.

6. Kerala Rural Development Agency

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Kerala Rural Development Agency, a non-governmental organization, has been working in the field of community development and research since 1985. The Agency has been implementing various programmes with the support of national and international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ILO and Oxfam, and of various agencies and departments of the central and state Governments. It was one of the first non-governmental organizations to collaborate in the implementation of watershed programmes in five villages covering around 2,500 farmers in India. The Agency has a committed team of professionals working to implement programmes from the grass-roots level. It is well-established, well-managed and enjoys good credibility, combining professional excellence with social commitment to realize its objective of social change. The Agency believes that sustainable human development occurs only through unity among people as a community and, therefore, it takes a collective approach to its work, seeking collective solutions that will benefit all. Its mission is to uplift those in need and in distress to make them productive and respectful members of society by enhancing their potential.

The Agency has four administrative offices in different parts of the region and a centre for the collective production of ethnic crafts. It has increased its staff to 55, thereby enabling it to expand its activities to include new areas and address new social needs. From 2006 to 2009, the Agency's budget covered various humanitarian and welfare-related activities, as well as research and development projects.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Agency did not participate in any major conferences or United Nations meetings during the reporting period as its efforts were focused mainly on the planning and implementation of programmes related to the Asian Tsunami and other programmes with governmental, non-governmental and United Nations bodies in the Asian region. The Agency is concerned about the scarcity of untied funds to cover travel and other expenses related to international meetings, but hopes that this issue will be addressed in the future.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Agency worked with UNDP on recovery and reconstruction programmes after the Asian Tsunami in 2004, and with the United Nations Team for Tsunami

Recovery Support and ILO in implementing an alternative livelihood programme for tsunami-affected communities in the coastal areas of the Asian region.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: (a) livelihood assistance for the communities affected by the Asian Tsunami; (b) nutritional support for children in coastal regions; (c) livelihood assistance for farmers in the Western Ghats region; and (d) nutritional care and support for rural artisans.

Goal 2: (a) continuing education programme for rural women; (b) adult education programmes in coastal communities; and (c) artisan schooling programme.

Goal 3: (a) gender budgeting programme for rural women; (b) gender health clinic; (c) gender-related studies; and (d) skill- and capacity-building programmes for women artisans.

Goal 4: (a) post-natal care and support programme for sex workers; (b) community crèche programme; (c) community care and support programme for single mothers.

Goal 5: (a) mothers' clinic in backward rural areas.

Goal 6: (a) behavioural change communication programme; (b) condom promotion programme; (c) sexually transmitted infections management care for communities; (d) care and support for people living with HIV in the Asian region; and (e) advocacy and networking among civil society organizations.

Goal 7: (a) community pandanus planting; (b) natural resource management programme in the Western Ghats region; (c) rainwater harvesting programme in the Western Ghats region; (d) protection of natural bodies of water; and (e) community wells programme in rural villages.

Goal 8: (a) association with Oxfam in a tsunami rehabilitation programme; and (b) work with an Indian sociocultural organization in Switzerland to provide livelihood assistance for widows.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The Agency did not participate in the work of ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies, or in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it was completely involved in disaster mitigation and rehabilitation initiatives related to the Asian Tsunami. It was partnered with UNDP, Oxfam, the United Nations Team for Tsunami Recovery Support, ILO and the Asian Development Bank in tsunami recovery and reconstruction programmes, which will be concluded only by December 2010. The Agency organized regional programmes in Asia during the reporting period. These programmes included events marking United Nations Day, World AIDS Day, World Environment Day and International Women's Day.

7. Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados

General, 1985

I. Introduction

The Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados is an independent network of bar associations founded in 1976. It works to ensure the defence of human rights and the rights of citizens and vulnerable groups. The participation of civil society in efforts to strengthen Latin American democracies has been particularly promoted by Spain, which currently acts as the secretariat and holds the presidency of the organization. The structure of the organization has enabled it to work efficiently and have a permanent presence. From the outset, the organization has sought to coordinate its work with that of local institutions to institutionalize procedures, ensure the transfer and exchange of knowledge and support the formulation of public policy.

The objectives of the organization are to: (a) promote and ensure that members of the legal profession honour the values of dignity, independence and freedom in the exercise of justice; (b) support training initiatives; technical preparation; (c) promote cooperation among professional associations; (d) support the development of common standards in the legal profession, including for accreditation; (e) promote the development of legal science; and (f) contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations.

The organization plans to participate in a number of meetings and conferences and will also be holding its own seminars and courses.

The organization has been active in the establishment of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia.

In the area of migration, the organization has contributed to the development of a database of applicable laws, collaborated on initiatives related to the rights of migrants in Latin America and worked to resolve border problems in the region.

The organization has also been active, through exchanges of experiences and technical assistance, in efforts to provide free legal aid to vulnerable groups. It has been involved in other initiatives in the areas of alternative dispute resolution, specialized training seminars and access to justice for prisoners and indigenous populations.